Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-222
Monday
20 November 1989

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FBIS-LAT-89-222 *20 November 1989*

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Bishops Ask for Cease-Fire in El Salvador

PA1711223489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1646 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Central American, Mexican, and Panamanian Bishops Conferences "condemn" and "repudiate" the war in El Salvador and demand that the conflicting parties declare "an immediate cease-fire."

A communique released in Guatemala today states that the Latin American bishops met in Guatemala on 16 November to discuss "with deep pain and anguish the bloody episodes of the civil war that is destroying El Salvador" and to express "our suffering and concern about the extreme situation that our Salvadoran brothers are experiencing."

The CELAM [Latin American Bishops Conference] communique stresses: "We feel an urgent need to join our voice to those of all the men and women who reject violence as a method for solving problems."

Thus, "we condemn and repudiate that fratricidal war, which is the bitter result of the situation of unbearable injustice that the noble Salvadoran people have been experiencing. That situation has also been worsened by the reproachable interference of hegemonic powers who are serving interests alien to our nations."

The Central American, Mexican, and Panamanian bishops call on all Christians to raise a single cry in demanding that the conflicting parties immediately declare a cease-fire and establish a truce.

The president and delegates of the region's Bishops Conferences add that the cease-fire would allow "first, the evacuation of wounded people and the burial of all those who have been killed, and it would also help in seeking a national and humane way out of this merciless massacre."

The document says: "We express our pain over the violent death of several priests and hundreds of Christians, and we hope that their blood will be a seed that brings forth a daybreak of peace, justice, and love."

The bishops add that they are "truly" in solidarity with the Salvadoran Church, its faithful, and clergymen "to whom we are linked through a deep feeling of fraternal affection and whose forced absence at this bishops' meeting we have deeply regretted."

The document is signed by Msgr Dimas Cedeno Delgado, president of the Panamanian Bishops Conference and bishop of Santiago, Veraguas Province; Msgr Roman Arrieta Villalobos, bishop of San Jose and president of the Costa Rican Bishops Conference; Msgr Salvador Schlaffer, bishop of Bluefields and president of the Nicaraguan Bishops Conference; and Msgr Hector Santos Hernandez, archbishop of Tegucigalpa and president of the Honduran Bishops Conference.

The communique is also signed by Msgr Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo, archbishop of Guadalajara and vice president of the Mexican Bishops Conference; Msgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, bishop of Zacapa and president of the Guatemalan Bishops Conference; and Msgr Oscar Andres Rodriguez, Tegucigalpa auxiliary bishop and CELAM secretary general.

Armies Conference Discusses Panama, El Salvador

PA1911121389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1517 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The 18th Conference of American Armies, which concluded last night in Guatemala with the absence of Panama, Cuba, and Nicaragua, has voiced its concern over the Panama situation and emphasized its solidarity with the Salvadoran military, who are confronting a bloody guerrilla offensive.

According to Guatemalan Lieutenant Carlos Gonzalez Salan, a spokesman for the conference, the events in Panama and El Salvador gained the attention of the military delegates from the 15 countries present at the meeting, which was held amid strict security measures and total secrecy.

The armies of Cuba and Nicaragua have not belonged to the conference since the victories of their respective revolutions, but this is the first time that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega had been excluded from the conference.

The conference delegates analyzed the political and military situation in Central America, jointly presented by the high commands of the armies of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Likewise, the ministers of defense and military commanders of the American countries discussed the problem of drug trafficking, the status of the guerrilla movements in the region, and the latest events in Panama, Gonzalez Salan said.

Although he refused to go into detail about the topics that were discussed, "as these were confidential," the Guatemalan officer admitted that high-ranking Latin American military officers are "worried about a (Panamanian) crisis that is still far from being solved."

Military sources who preferred to remain anonymous disclosed that at the request of other high-ranking American military chiefs, the General Staff of the Guatemalan Army decided at the last moment to cancel the FDP's invitation to attend the conference.

The source emphasized that "some general staffs exerted pressure to have the FDP excluded from this meeting. This is the first time that the FDP has not attended. It had attended two other conferences held in this Central American country," the source added.

It was learned that Guatemala had previously sent an invitation to Panama, but on 10 November, shortly before the conference began, the Guatemalan military authorities sent a fax message to the FDP, formally excusing themselves for not accepting the presence of Panamanian officers at the meeting.

"The excuse was that it had not complied with the requirements of registering its delegates, which led to administrative problems for the organizers, but the truth is that several delegations requested that Panama not attend due to the confusing situation prevailing in that country, which was aggravated when a new government was imposed," the source added.

The 7 May elections that the opposition claims to have won were annulled 3 days later. On 1 September the Council of State, of which Noriega is a member, appointed a "provisional government" presided over by Francisco Rodriguez. Several American governments and the Panamanian opposition described this decision as a "coup d'etat." Last weekend one of the Panamanian delegates who was to attend the conference, Major Luis Martinez, arrived in Guatemala. He was immediately notified of the decision of the Guatemalan Army not to accept any FDP representative. Therefore, he returned to Panama on 12 November, military sources reported.

The two main FDP delegates, Colonel Alberto Purcell and Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Correa, who were planning to arrive in Guatemala after Martinez, had to cancel their trip at the last minute, one of these sources told ACAN-EFE.

Concerning the war being waged by the Salvadoran Army, which since 11 November has been confronting a guerrilla offensive that has already led to nearly 1,000 deaths, Gonzalez Salan said that a statement of solidarity with the Salvadoran Armed Forces had been issued. The Guatemalan officer added that the military delegates of the hemisphere feel the Salvadoran Army "is winning the war situation."

The conference was attended by delegates from the United States, El Salvador, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Mexico, Jamaica, and Canada. Because the meeting was held in top secrecy, no attendance lists have been disclosed. At the end of the military meeting, it was decided that for the next 2 years the conference will be hosted by the United States, in view of Venezuela's resignation.

The chairmanship of the meeting rotates among the member nations of the Conference of American Armies.

OAS Assembly Supports Bolivian Demand

PY1711161089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2202 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 16 Nov (EFE)—The OAS General Assembly today expressed support for the Bolivian demand for a peaceful and negotiated solution to its problem of being landlocked.

The Bolivian resolution, opposed only by Chile, has obtained the support of 22 delegations, with the abstention of the following: El Salvador, St Vincent, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and St Lucia.

After 4 days of intensive diplomatic activities by Bolivia to obtain the support of the OAS members and Chile and to explain its points of view, the resolution has been sent to the plenum of the 19th OAS General Assembly.

In a speech to the General Assembly, Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz said: "This organization (OAS) has no jurisdiction to discuss matters which affect territorial integrity in a bilateral issue."

The resolution approved today was cosponsored by Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and it was supported by Peru and later by Nicaragua.

The text of the document, based on the resolution approved by the OAS in 1979, recognizes the Bolivian demand for a stable maritime solution with a continuous territorial connection to the sea, and the resolution describes it as a matter of "permanent hemispheric interest." In one of its whereas clauses the resolution calls for a "harmonious solution that will stimulate economic and social progress" in the region.

When presenting the proposal, Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde stressed the ideas of the document and Bolivia's willingness "to promote a formula of interest" that will meet his country's aspiration and the desire for "harmonious coexistence in the region."

Iturralde spoke to the assembly about the Peruvian president's public statement expressing Peru's support for Bolivia's aspiration. The Peruvian president declared that if an agreement is reached between Bolivia and Chile, Peru will support it because it is a Latin American need.

His Chilean counterpart stated that between Chile and Bolivia "there is no international territorial conflict pending a solution," and that the two nations "have perfectly delineated, precise, stable, and peaceful borders."

Errazuriz reaffirmed his country's desire to "work jointly in improving the free-transit system" and economic integration.

According to a source from the Bolivian mission to the OAS, the so-called "new Bolivian diplomatic strategy" must be interpreted as "a credit card" for the future Chilean democratic government, with which they expect to reestablish dialogue within the framework of the profound changes observed in the world.

Iturralde said today that Bolivia has an "imperative need to have access to the sea in order to survive." After the

resolution's approval, he expressed gratitude for regional support and the cosponsorship of the delegations that presented the proposal.

Peruvian Ambassador Edmundo Haya de la Torre supported the resolution but explained that he was doing so in accordance with the treaties implemented after the 1879 Pacific War, when Bolivia lost its access to the sea.

Argentine Foreign Ministry Secretary for Latin American Affairs Raul Carignaro urged Bolivia and Chile to establish a dialogue and reciprocal cooperation for the solution of the problem of being landlocked.

Bolivia managed to include this matter on the agenda of the OAS Assembly in 1979, and since then it has been discussed annually.

Chile and Bolivia severed diplomatic relations in 1979 following the failure of the attempted negotiations between Generals Hugo Banzer and Augusto Pinochet on a formula for territorial compensation.

Christian Democrats Denounce Haitian 'Repression'

PA1711021689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0249 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Caracas, 10 Nov (AFP)—The Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA) has requested the immediate intervention of the UN and OAS human rights groups to "safeguard the lives" of three Haitian opposition members arrested on 1 November and tortured since then in Port-au-Prince.

In a communique published today in Caracas and signed by ODCA Secretary General Hilarion Cardozo, ODCA demanded the release of the three men and requested the "solidarity of all democrats so that the Haitian people will not continue to be subjected to political and economic repression."

The communique stated that "dictator General Prosper Avril (Haitian president) keeps those who raise the flag of freedom in terror of torture and hunger."

The three opposition members—Evans Paul of the Democratic United Confederation (KID, leftist), Jean-Auguste Mesyeux of the Central Autonomous Confederation of Haitian Workers (CATH), and Etienne Marineau of the 17 January People's Organization (OP-17, made up of former members of the Presidential Guard)—were officially accused of trying to assassinate Avril.

Signs of the torture suffered after their arrest were seen by witnesses on 2 November when the prisoners were transferred from the Palace of Justice to the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince.

OAS Grants Belize Permanent Observer Status

FL1511132789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1654 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Washington, Nov 14, CANA—Belize has been granted permament observer status within the Organisation of American States (OAS), which began its annual general assembly here Monday [13 November]. The OAS also accepted Canada as the 33rd member of the Western Hemispheric body. Both decisions were adopted by unanimous acclamation, shortly after OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares told the opening session that "this assembly is meeting amid contradictory signals." He said one of the contradictions was the peace process in Central America, which is confronting many difficulties.

"There is an obvious commitment to peace, a commitment to life, a commitment to the destiny of peoples-...(but) we see the peace strategy being disrupted by recent incidents of armed struggle" he said. Baena Soares said he was appealing for an end to the violence and a decisive return to negotiations to end the conflict.

Belize's admission as the 25th permanent observer to the OAS came a few days after the country's application had been received by the Washington based organisation. [passage omitted]

Grenadian Envoy on Return of Cuba to OAS

FL2011143689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1627 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, Nov 19, CANA—Grenada on Saturday dismissed efforts aimed at the return of Cuba to full participation in the Organization of American States (OAS).

"Some of us are attempting to give some respectability to that reg (the Cuban regime) by advocating its return to the OAS," Ambassador Albert O. Xavier, head of the delegation of Grenada, told the nineteenth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

"What we need to do instead," Ambassador Xavier said, "is to urge Cuba to follow the example of its mentor and embrace the policy of glasnost and perestroyka and thereby advance the democratization of this hemisphere." Cuba, which has refused to recognise the administration in Grenada, has scorned efforts toward reform now sweeping the Eastern bloc.

The head of the delegation of Grenada also addressed the question of the single European market proposed for 1992. "Looming large before us is the spectre of a single European market. It is my hope that the OAS would undertake a study as early as possible, on the impact of a

single European market on the economies of the region," Xavier said.

He emphasized in his statement the concept of mutual responsibility in regional relations. "We are not likely to overcome the scourge of drug abuse and drug trafficking if we do not accept our mutual responsibility for bringing it to an end.

"No state in the Caribbean has the financial resources to fight the drug barons, who seem to have formed themselves into a consortium of angels of death," he told the General Assembly. "If only for that reason we need to co-operate for our individual and collective survival. We in the Caribbean—he concluded—desperately need that assistance."

Cuba

Foreign Ministry Blames Cristiani for Offensive

PA1911033689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0005 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Cuba has urged all countries, especially the Latin American, Caribbean, and Third World countries, to oppose a possible U.S. intervention in El Salvador and to express their most effective solidarity with the Salvadoran people.

In a statement issued in Havana, the Cuban Foreign Ministry recalls that the current guerrilla military offensive in El Salvador is the result of the Alfredo Cristiani government's constantly dodging the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's dialogue proposals.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry also states that the Salvadoran Army's inability to control the current situation and restore its authority in El Salvador has led the military high command to conduct massive bombings of the civilian population, which proves the repugnant essence of a regime that remains in power thanks to unconditional U.S. aid.

U.S. 'Double Standard' Seen in El Salvador

FL1711173089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras from the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Fighting continues today in San Salvador, and for the first time the triumphalist tone of the Salvadoran Army has begun to change. An AP cable we received this morning in our newsroom says the following: The Armed Forces have acknowledged they have serious problems in various suburbs of this capital. This is what the AP cable says textually in its headline.

In addition to this situation, there is another fact on the battlefield to which the news agencies have not paid much attention, which is also a reflection of the type of combat that the Salvadoran forces are fighting. AP itself says the following: The war became dirty with the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women by unidentified terrorists who acted during the curfew. Furthermore, the cable says that the Canadian Embassy in San Salvador reported that 12 workers from the Lutheran Church were arrested by uniformed security individuals in downtown San Salvador. In the beginning the cable said that the six priests had been murdered by unidentified terrorists. Later they were identified as uniformed individuals.

Among the priests murdered was Father Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University and director of a magazine which reflected the peoples' thoughts, not only in El Salvador but also in the rest of Central America. None of these priests belonged to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Furthermore, Ellacuria himself on several occasions expressed opinions that did not concur with those of the FMLN. However, he felt that a solution to the Salvadoran problem could not exclude the people's inclusion of the FMLN. The assassins who acted under the protection of the curfew are from the Salvadoran Army; they are not unidentified terrorists, as the AP cable says. They are assassins from the Salvadoran Army, the same army which has the total support of the U.S. Government. We can also see the double standard of the Bush administration in this. On the one hand, its entire publicity apparatus says to the world that Washington is in favor of democracy and respect for human rights. However, in practice, it supports the killers of priests and supplies bombs and rockets so that the Salvadoran Army—which has planes and helicopters provided by the United States—can bomb the Salvadoran civilian population.

These are the facts. This is the truth that Yankee propaganda is hiding and manipulating.

FMLN Delegate: U.S. Pilots Participating

FL1811002089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Fernando Castro, delegate of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrilla organization in Havana City, made an urgent call here today to the international community to put an end to the genocide and the escalation of repression by the Salvadoran regime.

The FMLN delegate urged international public opinion, institutions, governments and peoples to take positions to put an end to the barbaric actions of the Alfredo Cristiani administration. He charged that U.S. pilots took part in indiscriminate bombings and machinegunning perpetrated against the civilian population. He also denounced the intervention of Honduran troops and the elite Guatemalan troops known as Kaibiles, who were trained by Israeli officers.

In a statement, the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization warned the international community about U.S. military assistance to Cristiani's government and the movement of U.S. troops in Central America.

Broadcasting Experts Criticize TV Marti Plans

FL1811154089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1213 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Experts from several countries meeting in Uruguay have said that communications are an integral factor based on the necessary respect for Latin American sovereignty. The experts also repudiated the Yankee plan to broadcast television programs against Cuba. The Third General Assembly Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Radio Broadcasting Union elected our country to host its next meeting in 1992.

In remarks to the press, Ismael Gonzalez, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, expressed his satisfaction that Cuba will host the meeting and that our country was reelected to hold the position of regional vice president.

All the experts meeting in Uruguay stressed the urgent need to unite efforts, resources, and wills to advance toward independence in communications.

Soviets React to U.S. Remarks on MiG-29's

FL1711233089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] The Soviet Government today accused the United States of attempting to use the delivery of two MiG-29's to Cuba as a pretext to undermine the possible results of the informal summit to be held off the coast of Malta early in December.

In a news conference in Moscow, Soviet spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov conceded that the USSR has delivered two MiG-29's to Cuba to comply with agreements signed with our country. Gerasimov thus responded to recent remarks by a U.S. State Department spokesman who criticized the delivery and made it appear as though it contradicted the Soviets' desire to promote peace in Central America.

Gerasimov reiterated that the MIG model sold to Cuba had already been exhibited at international fairs and that its characteristics as a fighter interceptor and its use in air defense are well known.

Science, Technology Agreement Signed With PRC

FL1811023189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0057 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] An extremely important agreement in the fields of science and technology was signed between Cuba and the PRC at the Sierra Maestra Hotel's Protocol Room a few moments ago. The agreement was signed by Ernesto Melendez Bachs, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation of Cuba, and Jiang Minkuan, first vice minister of the State Science and Technology Commission of the PRC.

The agreement provides for a broad exchange between the two countries of specialists, technology, joint research, and information in the fields of science and technology. The document will be in effect for 5 years. It basically includes the exchange of specialists in the areas of fisheries, sugar industry, agriculture, and public health, among others. The agreement signed—I repeat—a few moments ago, has been one of the most important ones reached between our country and the PRC.

Envoy Shows Documents on Valladares-Batista Link

FL1811025589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0011 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to Poland Isabel Allende supplied to the Polish press today original documents which prove Armando Valladares' link with the repressive regime of dictator Fulgencio Batista. As you know, Valladares, an exconvict of Cuban origin, visited Poland recently. He was invited by the Independent Students Union. Valladares appeared there as a former supporter of the revolution who was convicted for his political ideas. Our ambassador summoned the Polish and foreign press to show, among other documents, the original identification card and file admitting him to the Batista police force in 1957.

I should tell you, friends, that I was in Geneva 2 years ago on the occasion of the Human Rights Commission meeting. Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri, ambassador to the Human Rights Commission, presented to the accredited reporters at the time the original documents of former Batista policeman Armando Valladares, who went to Geneva with the title of U.S. ambassador and representative to the Human Rights Commission. Friends, at that time all the reporters present at Geneva's Palace of Nations were able to hold in their hands and examine the original documents that prove that Armando Valladares was a policeman of the Batista dictatorship.

Ecumenical Council Condemns Killing of Jesuits

FL1811014989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The Ecumenical Council of Cuba joins in with all international institutions and figures who have voiced their condemnation in repudiating the killing of Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University based in El Salvador, Vice Rector Amando Lopez, four Jesuit priests, and two of their employees. In a statement released in Havana today, the Ecumenical Council of Cuba said that it is not difficult to see that the material authors of this terrible crime were instigated by the same people who killed Archbishop Monsignor Arnulfo Romero.

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares will arrive in El Salvador tomorrow to attempt to establish a dialogue between the forces in conflict in the Central American nation. Baena Soares stated to the press in Washington that his peace mission was a mandate from the OAS General Assembly in light of the worsening of the war between the ultra-rightist Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Delegation Meets Italy's Andreotti, De Lorenzo

FL1811135089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1209 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Cuban Public Health Minister Julio Teja has expressed his satisfaction in Rome on the positive results

stemming from the International AIDS Conference organized by the Vatican. Teja noted the greetings sent to Fidel from the conference chairman, Msgr Fiorenzo Angelini, and Pope John Paul II's deference to the Cuban delegation by speaking to them in Spanish and blessing the ultramicroanalytic system, SUMA, which our country donated to the Vatican. The Cuban scientific equipment was displayed in the lobby of the building where the Vatican-organized AIDS conference was held, and it was observed by the Pope.

The Cuban public health minister also mentioned his meetings with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Italian Health Minister Francesco de Lorenzo, who expressed interest in traveling to Cuba to observe our medical services system.

Div Gen Menendez Welcomes Internationalists

FL1811133289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1208 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Report by Pablo Farinas]

[Text] Another flight has brought back a group of more than 120 internationalist combatants to our fatherland after they successfully fulfilled their mission in the People's Republic of Angola. They were greeted at the foot of the ramp to the airplane by Division General Raul Menendez Tomassevich and other people representing political and mass organizations, who congratulated the internationalists on fulfilling their duty and on their willingness to carry out other assigned tasks.

Some of the youngest combatants who spoke with a Radio Reloj reporter said they were happy to return to Cuba on International Student's Day, and they stressed the importance of this date.

An official ceremony welcoming back 300 combatants will take place this morning at the Cacahual Mausoleum.

Commentary Notes SWAPO's 'Historic Victory'

FL1711194689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The historic victory of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] in the Namibian elections shows above all one fact: No nation that firmly sets the goal of attaining independence will see its efforts fail. The struggle will be more or less long and bloody, but victory will be attained in the end. That is the example and lesson that the Namibian people have added to the long and glorious list of similar events.

The South African racist regime held on ferociously to the Namibian territory and subjected it to decades of brutal colonialism, merciless exploitation, horrible crimes, and unrestrained terror. Pretoria raised the banners of racism in Namibia to remind us that today the world still has a lot to be ashamed of. Nevertheless, the Namibian people undertook the struggle to rid themselves of that injustice, carried it out tenaciously, and today their road to independence is an irreversible process.

Two days ago, SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma expressed his deep gratitude to the Cuban Communist Party, Government, and people for their continuous support for Namibia's independence struggle. In fact, that support was firm even before SWAPO began its war against colonialism over 2 decades ago. That support will also be firm now, when the independence proclamation is almost a fact, and even later, in the future struggles of the Namibian people.

We modestly accept Nujoma's gratitude, not because we want it, but because we consider the Namibian people's victory our own. It is a feeling that honors, dignifies, and exalts us.

Namibian Assembly To Begin Sessions 21 Nov

FL1711133889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] On 21 November the recently elected National Constituent Assembly of Namibia will begin its sessions in Windhoek, in the room which served as headquarters for the dissolved interim Namibian Government.

The first debates will be devoted to electing the president of the assembly, whose 72 members have the mission of writing a constitution and proclaiming independence.

Elsewhere, Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization, has promised to improve the standard of living of all Namibians, guarantee the country's unity, and consolidate freedom. Nujoma spoke in Lusaka, Zambia, before the heads of state of the Front Line States, which include Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The Namibian independence leader affirmed that his organization will create a rehabilitation program for the over 6,000 Namibian youths who were trained by South Africa to repress the population during the war.

Tribunal Sentences Human Rights Activists

FL1811145289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The Havana City Provincial People's Tribunal has concluded the oral and public hearing and approved the sentencing for three counterrevolutionaries accused of spreading false and biased information with the intent to endanger the prestige of the Cuban State.

During the hearing of Case No 5 of 1989 held in the courtroom for crimes against state security, the tribunal, presided over by Judge Guillermo Hernandez Infante, described the crimes which were committed by [human rights activists] Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, Ivan Abi Cobas [name as heard], and Hubert Jerez Marino.

Hugo Rodriguez Lubian, representative of the Attorney General's Office, presented witnesses, documents, and experts to prove that the three defendants had disseminated false news against international peace regarding the trial of a group of former Cuban officers convicted of drug trafficking and other crimes. The prosecutor also demonstrated that defendants Sanchez Santa Cruz, Abi Cobas, and Jerez Marino had prepared a document that contained false evidence on the trial against the former Cuban officers, which they gave to several foreign press agencies.

In the trial [words indistinct] of a crime that is sanctioned under Chapter 3, Article 115 of our current Penal Code.

The prosecutor recommended 4 years' imprisonment for Sanchez Santa Cruz and 3 years' imprisonment for Abi Cobas and Jerez Marino. Sanchez Santa Cruz and Jerez Marino were defended by retired lawyers Antonio Varona and Jorge Bacayao, while Abi Cobas was represented by attorney Rene Gomez Manzano.

Homicide Rate Discussed at Forensics Meeting

FL1811192189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Report by Josefa Busi from the Palace of Conventions]

[Text] About 200 homicides a year occur in the city of Havana, while in Medellin, Colombia, there are more than 60 homicides a day. This was reported at a meeting on homicide investigations in Cuba. This event is one of the activities that comprise the Latin American meeting "Forenso 89" that began in Havana's Palace of Conventions on 16 November.

A group of Cuban specialists reported that the crime of homicide is not considered to be a problem in Cuba. The results of a recent investigation indicate that this crime is influenced by alcoholic beverages and that the social background of murderers is below the sociocultural norm.

"Forenso 89" will end this afternoon with a plenary meeting at which the final document will be read by a member of the workshop on the prevention of traffic accidents. Lawyers, legal professionals, doctors, judges, and other Latin America specialists shared their views and expertise for 3 days at the "Forenso 89" conference, an event that has served as a platform for the 5th Congress of the Latin American Association of Forensic Medicine and Medical Ontology, the 12th annual forensics meeting, the 1st meeting on forensic psychiatry, and the 1st international workshop on the prevention of traffic accidents.

Sugar Industry Workers Congress Closes

FL1811121589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Excerpt] After 2 days of intense work, the 18th Sugar Industry Workers Congress has ended successfully with the remarks of Julian Rizo Alvarez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo. This last day of work was presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo, and Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

The 85 members of the union's National Committee elected by the Congress chose its secretariat. The secretariat is headed by Manuel Cordero Aguila, who acted as chairman of the commission organizing the event.

Sugar Industry Minister Juan Hererra spoke during today's afternoon session. Herrera said the Sugar Industry Ministry will support the union's work and added that some resources will be provided for this. The delegates approved the main report submitted and discussed during the Congress, as well as the regulations and functions of the union and the emulation process, which underwent several changes.

Several people spoke during this last session. The spirit of work of these men and women who are part of our major industry was evident. We believe it was a fruitful meeting which will make it possible to achieve higher goals in sugar production and efficiency. [passage omitted including delegates' remarks]

Correction: Aid to Poland, Hungary 'Blackmail'

FL1711135389

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Terms of U.S. Aid to Poland, Hungary 'Blackmail,'" published in the 17 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 1:

Column two, sourceline: Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 89 (changing word "Network" to "Service")

Correction to Sugar Workers Congress Opens

FL1711134889

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Machado, Rizo Open Sugar Workers Congress," published in the 17 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 3:

Column two, sourceline: Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 89 (changing word "Network" to "Service")

Dominican Republic

Balaguer States Opposition to Romain Extradition

FL1711174589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer said yesterday that the Dominican Republic would not extradite Franck Romain, former mayor of Port-au-Prince and chief of police under the Duvalier regime, to Haiti as has

allegedly been requested. A request for the extradition of Franck Romain, Belen Gonzalez, and Manuel Suarez Gamboa, members of the Basque terrorist organization Basque Fatherland and Liberty [ETA], was recently conveyed to the Dominican authorities. The Spanish Government asked for Gonzalez and Suarez Gamboa. The Haitian Government allegedly asked for Franck Romain.

According to an early news report today, Dominican Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral said that the proper documents have arrived. He said the Romain case will be given the same consideration as the case of the two members of the Basque pro-independence organization ETA.

Herrera Cabral said it might take a good while to analyze these dossiers. In a statement he made yesterday, Balaguer stated clearly that he would not send Romain back to Haiti, because he considers Romain a political exile.

Haiti

Avril Addresses Departmental Commanders

FL1511235789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, yesterday continued his visits, which he began on 13 November, to the different military garrisons in the capital.

He went first to the military hospital in Port-au-Prince, where he visited the Corps of Engineers. Next he visited the Narcotics Service and the Transportation Service. Then he received the commanding officers of the nation's nine military departments at the National Palace.

At the military hospital, Lt Gen Avril once again reminded the members of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] of their mission. [passage omitted]

In his message to the commanding officers of the nation's nine military and geographical departments, the president repeated what he had said previously. He said he was repeating and would never stop repeating that the construction of a new society is going to be the joint work of all citizens, whose work, difficulties, and sacrifices will permit them to liberate Haitians both materially and mentally. President Avril gave the departmental commanding officers a message for their departments in the provinces. [passage omitted]

[Begin Avril recording] [passage omitted] I have summoned you here so that through the departmental commanding officers I can reach all the troops in all the nation's military departments, because it is not possible for me to have time to visit the nation's nine military departments in a single week.

The message I have for the troops is, first of all, a message of congratulations—in the sense that I can personally say that I am satisfied as we approach 18 November [Armed Forces Day] this year. I also say satisfaction because the entire high command in general is satisfied with the way the Army and the nation recently coped with the big crisis. We bestow these congratulations upon all the enlisted men, officers, NCO's, rural police agents, civilian employees, and contract employees working in all these military departments.

The second part of the message is: We ask (?the commanders) to promote unity among all Haitian Armed Forces members, (?so) we can—and I call this almost miraculous—(?very) quickly forge our unity.

We all went through a very traumatic experience within the FADH (?around mid-year). We have been able to (?restore) the FADH almost as if nothing had happened, even though the year is not over. This is a miracle and it is evidence of the (?ability) of the members of the FADH. It shows that the training of FADH members runs very deep and is solid. I don't think there are many institutions that could have reestablished themselves this quickly, had they gone through the same thing the FADH went through.

Therefore, the message is a message of unity, unity with discipline, with respect for the military hierarchy, which is what gives us our strength. It is respect for the military hierarchy, which has been able to consolidate and reestablish (?itself) this quickly, that gives the institution its strength.

This is also a message of clearheadedness. We would like the departmental commanders to convey this message very forcefully, with great conviction, so that the individual members of the FADH, be they enlisted men, officers, or rural police agents, will understand well that we are now at a moment when the members of the FADH must be very clearheaded about their state of (?destitution), about the state of (?destitution) of the barracks, and so forth. (?The commanders) must understand and seek to (?dissuade) members of the FADH (?involved in improper conduct and irregularities). [end recording] [passage omitted]

COH President Issues Statement on Demonstrations

FL1611001789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The demonstration scheduled for yesterday by the Common Front Against Repression but not authorized by the police was not held. [passage omitted]

Idli Cameau, the president of the Haitian Workers Committee, COH, has made a statement on the demonstration to the press. Cameau says the current Haitian situation is extremely serious and confused. Cameau stressed that the COH has not given any member of the Front any mandate whatsoever to organize any demonstrations in the name of the organizations that met to discuss this matter.

Cameau also declared that Patrick Dacius is not authorized to sign any document in the name of the COH. Let's listen to Cameau.

[Begin Cameau recording] The situation in Haiti has now become very serious. There is much confusion being sown in the people's camp and the population is not able to understand what is happening. [passage omitted] The government is keeping the men in prison and certain crooked wheeler-dealers are using this fact to further their own aims. That is clearly (?the reason for) the failure of today's demonstration. [passage omitted]

As of this statement, Patrick Dacius is no longer authorized to sign any document whatsoever for the COH. Only two COH signatures are valid: COH Executive Secretary Blain Kennedy and COH President Idli Cameau. This does not mean Dacius is not a COH member. It is merely to warn certain crooked, wheeling and dealing, ill-intentioned, stubborn politicians who think they can put the COH out into the streets (?at will for nothing).

To clarify things further, we wish to inform everyone that COH is a member of the National Assemblage only and that it has no committment to sign its name to any document issued by the Common Front Against Repression.

Furthermore, we state that as of this time, no one has been mandated to sign anything under the Common Front Against Repression. The 24 organizations in question did hold a news conference but did not mandate anyone to do anything. At this moment, no consensus has been reached by any of the organizations—the Labadie Youth Movement, the National People's Front, the Center for Economic and Social Training for Development, COH, or any of the many others. This is the work of individuals who are doing things at random, doing things (?that make it look as if) the people's cause has failed in the face of the macoutes—to keep the militants in jail longer. The total failure of this means that.... [changes thought] If the National Assemblage tries (?to take things back in hand, reactivate them), this failure will make it look as if (?we have no strength and are beaten). [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hunger Strikes Called To Support Prisoners

FL1611180689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpts] In Port-au-Prince, three members of the opposition [Mesyeux, Marineau, and Paul] who have been imprisoned for 15 days began a hunger strike Tuesday [14 November] at the National Penitentiary. [passage omitted]

Evans Paul's three daughters Bianca, Sandra, and Severine, who are 9, 11, and 13 years old, respectively, began a hunger strike yesterday to obtain the release of their father. [passage omitted]

Dr Louis Roy came to Red Cross headquarters to persuade the girls to stop their hunger strike. Dr Roy, Gabriel Miracle of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, and Evans Paul's mother Artemise Paul agreed to replace the girls on their hunger strike. The girls consented to go home with their mother.

Dr Roy is a member of a group called Honor and Respect for the Constitution, and he will explain to us why he agreed to replace the girls on their hunger strike to demand the release of their father.

[Begin Roy recording] [passage omitted] We say that the nation cannot stand by complacently and watch the three prisoners, who have already been abused, go on a hunger strike. We cannot stand by and watch three children who are determined to starve to death along with their father. [passage omitted]

We ask them to let us take their place. [passage omitted]

We ask the entire nation—union, peasant, church, and voodoo organizations, as well as teachers, doctors, lawyers, drivers groups and so forth—to set up three-person groups throughout Haiti to replace the children, just as we are doing today. We will do this until we force the government to send the imprisoned men to the hospital and finally, release them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Prisoners in Poor Health, Resume Hunger Strike

FL1511224789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Excerpts] According to members of the civilian society Organization for the Defense of the Constitution, the physical condition of the three militants being held at the National Penitentiary is very distressing. The militants have been in custody for 2 weeks. These members of the civilian society were able to visit the militants last weekend. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Nancy Roc] [passage omitted] Dr Louis Roy was a member of this delegation and explained to us that he could not see any improvement since the time the three prisoners were last shown on Haitian National Television. Evans Paul is still having trouble getting about. Jean Auguste Mesyeux appears to be in better shape than the others. However, Dr Roy was very concerned about Etienne Marineau. Dr Roy stressed that if patients in such condition had appeared at his clinic, he would have immediately ordered them hospitalized. We will listen to Dr Roy.

[Begin Roy recording] [passage omitted] I am very worried about Marineau's condition. We did not examine them, so this opinion is just the first impression of a physician.

Marineau's right eye is very red and congested. He cannot see out of that eye. He also had bleeding from the right ear. This means there is an eye lesion that should be

seen by someone other than a prison general practitioner. He also has difficulty breathing. My specialty is respiratory diseases and I think he has a fractured rib. A rib must have been fractured when he was struck. [passage omitted]

All I can say is that had such patients appeared in my office, I would have asked that they be hospitalized for a more thorough evaluation by specialists. [passage omitted]

They have been seen by the prison doctors. However, I am concerned about the future life and health of individuals who perhaps will not die right now of the blows they have received but who might later suffer very serious aftereffects from these blows. [passage omitted]

I would not dare to assume responsibility for treating a patient with an eye condition like Marineau's. I would call on a specialist. Because he bled from the ear, he should be seen by an opthalmologist and a neurologist, to see if the blows to the head have caused problems at the base of the skull.

I don't mean to be pessimistic about this, but I really do not think anyone with patients in such condition should take responsibility for keeping them simply under the care—even if this care is very attentive—of military general practitioners assigned to the Port-au-Prince prison. [end recording] [passage omitted]

A local Red Cross delegation also visited the prisoners last week. Local Red Cross President Dr Fougere confirmed to us that recommendations have been sent to the appropriate people. Furthermore, Dr Fougere informed us that Beyi of the International Red Cross is arriving in Haiti today, 14 November, and will visit the three militants while he is here.

The three militants have refused all food since yesterday. They have decided to resume their hunger strike in order to call attention to their physical condition and to demand their release. [passage omitted]

Organizations Propose March Against Government

FL1511213989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Saint-Marc Democratic Association for Mutual Support and Solidarity [ADSSSM] and APA [expansion unknown] in Saint-Marc propose a peaceful, political march carrying the flags of all countries to demand that the government step down. [passage omitted]

ADSSSM and APA, two organizations in Saint-Marc, accuse the military government of committing many violations of the universal declaration of human rights and denounce the government before the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[Begin ADSSSM founder Emile Alexis recording] The Haitian people should organize a march in front of all the nations' embassies. They should carry the flags of all the countries that signed conventional agreements on the declaration of human rights.

This is a big weapon we are proposing because we know the evil ones will want to come and shoot and crush this crusade. When they shoot at all these flags, we will think they are shooting at the United Nations. [end recording]

What will be the result of the march? Emile Alexis says the march will serve to uproot [dechouke] this system of government and force the current government to resign. [passage omitted]

[Begin Alexis recording] [passage omitted] The system, in all its forms and all its manifestations, must be uprooted. If the head of the government cannot or does not have the courage to uproot the system, he must step down. In fact, we already see that he should no longer be at the head of the government. He must turn the presidential chair over to a civilian government. [passage omitted]

The problem is a very big one. It is not just a matter of demanding the release of the militants [Mesyeux, Marineau, and Paul]. It is not just against human rights violations either. It is for a complete, total change.

When we put it that way, the government will deem it necessary to make a statement, to (?agree) with the march and resign. Then the National Assemblage and all the other organizations that support it throughout the nation's nine geographical departments will propose an alternative that will take this government's place.

19 Dominican Nationals Deported Last Month

FL1511211889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that a notice from the Ministry of Interior and National Defense states that 19 Dominican nationals who were living illegally in Haiti were apprehended and deported. They were taken to the border at Malpasse, across from Jimani, on Thursday, 19 October. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Cristiani Addresses Nation on Conflict

PA1811052089 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0407 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani, place not given; broadcast in progress—live or recorded]

[Text]...have controlled the terrorist actions of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. On 17 November, the Armed Forces made great advances, and we can now say that the area of Zacamil has been totally recovered. The civilian residents of that sector have suffered very much. Likewise, the Armed Forces control other areas in Mejicanos Municipality. There are only some small pockets in Ciudad Delgado and some sectors of Soyapango Municipality where there are still some clashes.

Salvadoran people, it is regrettable that the FMLN insists on continuing with these destructive actions that make innocent people, who only want to be with their families and live in peace, go through some truly dramatic moments. However, we must have full confidence that the Armed Forces are going to definitely control all of these FMLN terrorists. That is the scope of the Armed Forces advance, Salvadoran people.

We trust that each day we will continue advancing until we have full control, in the least amount of time possible, always respecting the lives of those civilians in danger. In a cowardly manner, the FMLN hides behind these innocent civilians and uses them as shields.

We also want to tell you, Salvadoran people and particularly those who have been forced in any manner to abandon their homes that, through the Emergency Commission, the government is offering basic services, as best it can, to the people who have been temporarily displaced from their homes.

We believe that with the help of all the friendly countries who are already beginning to help and send aid, [changes thought] for example, the United States of America. We have also been told that tomorrow the king of Spain is sending a plane loaded with medicine. Another plane is bringing 55,000 tons of medications from The Order of Malta. The Salvadoran-American Foundation is sending a very generous donation of 200 field tents to be used to provide protection for many families from the inclemency of the weather. There is also the Rotary Club, and there is even a community in the United States called Cooperation California that is sending 3,000 tons of corn.

Salvadoran people, as you have observed, aid is on its way. We want to tell those who are in such situations, in one way or another, to remain calm, to listen to the information and instructions that are continuously being given over the national radio network, and to cooperate and help so that the distribution of food and medications can be done in the best orderly manner. We feel that what the country had in storage and what these generous countries and organizations are donating will be sufficient to attend to the people who are being momentarily affected.

The government of the Republic is also making efforts to have a reconstruction fund. We know that many homes have been damaged. The terrorists have opened huge holes in order to move in between these houses. This cowardly attack by the FMLN has brought about much destruction. Once the situation has been normalized, we want to be able to give you financial assistance so that you can rebuild your homes and return to normalcy as soon as possible.

Salvadoran people, we cannot but thank you and recognize the way in which you are bearing the FMLN aggression.

We truly have a duty toward the Salvadoran people, and we will give you all our support. We are willing to give you everything we possibly can so that [word indistinct] can live in peace and tranquillity.

Echoing that attitude, Salvadoran people, we must also help our soldiers. We must give them all the cooperation they need for the current situation to end as soon as possible. We must call for national unity. We must all cooperate to save our homeland from the terrorist aggression. We must all unite to achieve peace and tranquillity as soon as possible, always taking into account the situation our country is going through.

We must support our democratic process, our institutions, and we must totally reject the FMLN terrorist forces. We must face those forces through a united front. We call on all of our country's democratic and political forces to form a united front; to reject violence as a way of solving problems in El Salvador; and to unite in our aspiration to live in a democracy and in peace, tranquillity, and respect for the laws. Briefly, we must unite to live in a de jure state in which the people can live in harmony and tranquillity.

It is therefore necessary that all political parties join efforts, not around a government or an institution, but for the Salvadoran people to achieve their dearest goals.

We are receiving the international community's support. The international community is supporting Salvadoran democracy. We have received encouraging messages from countries such as Great Britain, which has vigorously condemned the FMLN terrorist action. We have received a message from the EEC, in which that group is telling the FMLN that the armed struggle is not the solution to the problems and that to be able to solve our problems, we must first have peace and then achieve the country's social and economic development. Those goals must be attained through a peace process. The government had already began that process and the FMLN

tried to break it. The peace process must be based on the Esquipulas II agreement and especially on the Tela agreement.

We have also witnessed how different political and ideological tendencies have become unified in other countries.

And so, today we received a resolution from the Guatemalan Congress, where the Guatemalan Christian Democracy, UCN [Union of the National Center], and the MLN [National Liberation Movement], in sum, all the political forces joined in condemning violence and the FMLN, and supporting our country's democratic institutionality which is what the people want. Salvadoran brothers, this support must serve to motivate us to create a united front, reject the FMLN's terrorist violence, and seek the peace our country wants and needs.

Salvadoran people, we are sure this will be over soon. In times like these, the Salvadoran people have always reacted in a positive manner. Solidarity exists among all Salvadorans to seek and help the neediest. The Salvadoran Government is ready to do everything within its power to achieve total normalization as soon as possible. In addition, it is fair to recognize the military chiefs and officers and, especially, the soldiers who have been defending the Salvadoran people for many days, trying to oust the FMLN hordes from San Salvador and other cities where they sought to sow terror.

We believe that those military chiefs and officers must feel the support from all the people and, primarily, our recognition of their bravery and total dedication to their fatherland and people, who are now seeking peace and calm. As for us, military chiefs, officers, soldiers: our highest recognition and gratitude. History will reward you and say the glorious Armed Forces and their units found the road for eradicating violence in the country. Salvadoran people, through the national radio network and different local news media, you have learned what is happening. We will be giving you the information you need. We also want to ask you today, just as you saw almost total normalcy—buses on the streets, people going to work—to continue doing your part so that tranquillity will prevail as soon as possible. To all, thank you. May God bless you.

Cristiani Statement on Murder Investigation

PA1811043089 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0335 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Statement by President Alfredo Cristiani in San Salvador; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Salvadoran people: We have strong reasons for wanting justice to be done in the regrettable incident in which Father Ellacuria, other priests, and civilians were killed. We want to tell those who are trying to draw premature conclusions to abstain from doing so; we urge you to heed the community of Jesus and the Archbishopric of San Salvador's calls that this case not be politicized or used to generate further violence in the country.

We believe that an investigation must be conducted; we are committed to conducting an in-depth investigation to punish the perpetrators of this savage action, regardless of who is involved. The Armed Forces High Command and the government of the Republic will request help to ensure that the Salvadoran Crime Investigation Commission will be advised by experts in order to get to the root of this regrettable incident as soon as possible. We will ask the United States, Great Britain, and Spain to help us. I mention Spain because some of those who were assassinated are citizens of that country.

Salvadoran people: We believe that the time has come to conduct an investigation and ensure that justice is served in reprehensible actions like this one instead of politicizing them and generating further violence.

The government of the Republic and the Armed Forces will never allow a return to the past; a return to those dramatic and regrettable times in the country when groups wanted to futher their cause through violent acts such as this one. We will not allow this to happen and will pursue such groups to ensure that they feel the full force of the law.

Comments on Military Involvement

PA1911150689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1312 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani stated today that the Armed Forces High Command "does not dismiss" the possibility that those who instigated the assassination of the six Jesuits on 16 November could have been military.

"The High Command members do not dissmiss the possibility that the perpetrators could been Army members, and are ready to get to the bottom of things so that they will be punished," the Salvadoran president said in statements to EFE and other media.

Cristiani, who insisted on the necessity of "not jumping to hasty conclusions," added that "the Armed Forces do not want the institute, per se, to suffer the consequences of what its members do as individuals."

On 16 November six Jesuit priests, five of them Spaniards, were assassinated by uniformed men who machinegunned them in their residence that morning, while a rigid curfew was in effect in El Salvador.

The Jesuits, who had lived in El Salvador for many years, were stanch critics of the military regimes and of the extreme rightist sectors of the country.

According to Cristiani, "the Armed Forces High Command, of which the president is a part, are totally determined to investigate and clear up the assassination of the Jesuits."

Interviewed shortly after meeting with Inocencio Arias, Spanish under secretary of foreign relations, Cristiani asked that Spain, the United States, and Great Britain participate in the investigation of the assassination "by sending experts.

The Salvadoran president described the attitude of those persons in the United States who have hinted at the possibility of suspending the $1 million daily aid given to El Salvador as "very simplistic."

"I trust that this will not be so and I have information that the large majority of U.S. political leaders do not feel that way," the president added.

Thus far, the autopsies performed on the Jesuits by three U.S. pathologists "are not conclusive in determinining guilt," the president added.

Cristiani had words of praise for Ignacio Ellacuria, one of the Jesuits killed, "who had become a constructive opposer of the Salvadoran Government," according to him.

Salvadoran television, which has been state-controlled since the guerrilla offensive started 1 week ago, carried some clips of Ellacuria in which he requested applause for Cristiani at an event held some months ago in the University of El Salvador.

Some Salvadoran rightist sectors have publicly accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerillas of being behind the Jesuits' killing.

Ellacuria told EFE, 4 days before he was killed, that Cristiani represents "the civilian sector" of the ruling ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Party, in contrast with two others whom he described as "militarists" and "death squad-oriented."

"ARENA, per se, has nothing to do with violent incidents," Cristiani said, commenting on Ellacuria's appraisal and adding that "obviously there are violent groups in the country, but they are not known to the government or to ARENA.

Initial Investigation Results

PA1911182989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1602 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The individuals in uniform who murdered six Jesuit priests and two more people in San Salvador on 16 November fired over 500 rounds and stayed at the site of the crime almost 1 hour, according to private investigations being carried out by diverse institutions. With just a few hours left before the burial, the site of the slaughter still shows some of the circumstances that surrounded the clergymen's shooting.

A Jesuit priest, who was one of the first to arrive at the home where the clergymen were assassinated, counted "from 500 to 600 impacts," which were fired from a "a machinegun on a tripod" that was used to shoot from a distance and later to "execute" the priests" in the garden.

Based on the reconstruction of the murder, which the Jesuit's Order has done so far and which was reported to the authorities investigating the case, the assassins—approximately 30 men in uniform—arrived shortly after 0230 in the morning (0830 GMT).

The assailants fired at the residence before entering, dragged the Jesuits outside, and fired at them "against" a wall that is still smattered with blood, according to the reconstruction of the crime that was developed by interviewing witnesses.

"The assassins finished them off by shooting them in the head with long-barreled weapons from a distance, since no gunpowder marks were seen, " said a lawyer who is participating in the private investigations but asked to remain anonymous.

At the time of the crime, a strict curfew was in effect, and the entire Central American University [UCA] area, where the priests' residence was located, was cordoned off by soldiers.

In addition to this information, which has been gathered by several institutions and people who hint that the military is responsible, it is worth noting that Army units had raided the residence 2 days before the crime was committed. "Only the part that was raided was destroyed," commented a Jesuit showing the burned library and the ransacked rooms, from which, according to the priest, "$5000 that Father Ignacio Ellacuria had received in Barcelona from the Comin Award, and which was to be given to his university, was stolen."

Some sources say that the use of long-barreled weapons can be deduced from the fact that most of the victims' brains were outside the skull, as the first persons who arrived at the scene noticed. Others felt the damage to the victims was caused by the use of AK-47 and M-16 assault rifles; in fact, the damage was so extensive it was impossible to embalm the remains," Jesuit Order Provincial Jose Maria Tojeira told ACAN - EFE. [quotation marks as recieved]

As for the two women who were murdered, Elba Ramos, the house cook and her daughter, Marisela [name as received] 15, all the data indicates that they were machine-gunned in their bedroom, where the bloodshed was so great that there was a puddle of blood underneath the door. Underneath the sofa a piece of the vertebra and skull of one of the victims, crushed against the wall, can still be seen.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today said in a interview that "they (the general staff) have not ruled out that soldiers may have done it, and are prepared to get to

the bottom of this until they are punished," although he cautioned against "jumping to premature conclusions." Cristiani said the autopsies performed by the U.S. pathologists "were inconclusive."

Most of the Spanish Jesuits still remaining in the country are aggrieved by the slaughter, "which has wiped out 70 percent of the full-time staff" at the university, a center run by the Jesuit Order that has been accused of "subversion" by the Salvadoran right wing. However, a priest of Basque origin said "to leave now (the country) would amount to cowardice." "Saint Ignatius advises us against leaving in times of sorrow," said Rogelio Pedraz, a close aide of UCA President Father Ellacuria, who was among those murdered. The burial of the six Jesuits will take place today, and the bodies will be placed in niches built in UCA's chapel underneath a sign, which has been hanging there for a long time and which reads: "If they kill me, I will resurrect in the people of El Salvador." San Salvador Bishop Monsignor Oscar Romero uttered that sentence before his murder in 1981 at the hands of ultraright "death squads."

Cristiani Meets Spanish Foreign Affairs Official

PA1911023289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0032 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Inocencio Arias, the Spanish under foreign secretary, said today that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani "promised to carry out a prompt and serious investigation" and "to punish those responsible" for the murder of six Jesuits and two women on 16 November.

Arias added that the meeting held this afternoon with President Cristiani was "cordial and sincere."

Arias, who arrived today in San Salvador along with other high-ranking Spanish officials, said that "the president seems willing to promote a thorough investigation to determine who is responsible for the horrible massacre."

The official delegation came to El Salvador after six Jesuits, five of them Spanish, were murdered by individuals wearing military uniforms.

Inocencio Arias affirmed that President Cristiani is "a lucid, intelligent, and well-intentioned person," who is "apparently interested in clarifying the facts."

After meeting with Arias, the Salvadoran president explained to ACAN-EFE that he requested experts be sent from Spain, the United States, and Great Britain.

Cristiani justified the presence of foreign experts "from Spain, because the Jesuits were Spanish; from the United States, because they requested it; and from Great Britain, because of the fame of Scotland Yard.

According to Arias, President Cristiani "was affected by the deaths of the priests."

Arias said that during his visit to El Salvador, he will also try to "work on the departure of those Spanish people who are in great danger in the country."

The official declined blaming any group for the death of the Jesuits and the two women, but he emphasized that President Cristiani told him that "the reponsible persons, whoever they may be, will be punished."

The Salvadoran president told ACAN-EFE that "the government and the Armed Forces, as an institution, are determined to investigate the case to the very end to uncover the perpetrators."

When asked about the possibility that they may be military members, he answered that "the Armed Forces have not ruled out that they might have been members of the Army, and they are determined to investigate this thoroughly."

However, Cristiani rejected the "premature interpretations" that claim the military carried out the multiple crime.

The Salvadoran president told the Spanish diplomat that the situation in El Salvador "will be peaceful in a few days," and he reiterated that he "is willing to continue with the dialogue."

However, he told ACAN-EFE that "we are not going to attend a meeting that will not be attended by the other party," referring to the announcement that the guerrillas are not planning to attend the meeting slated to start on 20 November in Caracas, Venezuela.

According to Arias, Cristiani insists that the situation is "pretty much controlled in the country," although the Salvadoran president warned them "there might be new outbreaks of violence."

Today marks the 8th day of the bloody fighting between the Army and the Salvadoran guerrillas. It has left at least 1,000 persons dead, hundreds of persons wounded, and tens of thousands of persons—who have had to leave their neighborhoods and towns to flee from the crossfire of the fighters and the bombings of the Salvadoran Air Force—displaced.

Discusses Priests' Murder

LD1911005189 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The Salvadoran Government seems ready to carry out the investigation requested by the Spanish Government to clarify last Thursday's murder of eight people, six of them Jesuits, of whom five were Spaniards. Good evening, special correspondent Gloria del Campo in San Salvador.

[Begin Del Campo recording] Good evening. Spanish Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Inocencio Arias held a 40-minute meeting with President of El Salvador

Alfredo Cristiani, and also had a separate meeting with the deputy foreign minister in the absence of the minister.

According to Inocencio Arias, Cristiani was very cordial and absolutely prepared to launch an investigation and he said the he wants Spain, the United States, and Great Britain to form the commission to investigate the murder of the six Jesuits and the two women who worked at the residence of the Jesuits. Although it is still not known when the investigation will start, Cristiani said it will be soon and that the investigation will be rapid, serious, and in-depth. It is not known either which officials or experts will be involved or how long it will last. Cristiani also said that the Armed Forces Staff wants to clarify the matter and that he did not rule out uncontrolled elements in the army as having been responsible for the murderers in this massacre. [end recording]

55 Spaniards Evacuated 'for Security Reasons'

PA2011004889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2217 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Fifty-five Spaniards were evacuated from El Salvador today for security reasons in an Air Force plane which left the country at 1545 (2145 GMT) from the International Airport at Comalapa.

Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Inocencio Arias was on board the plane.

The airplane's departure was delayed to wait for Arias and other Spanish officials to arrive at the airport after attending the funeral of six Jesuit priests, five of them Spaniards, who were killed on Thursday.

Rivera y Damas Comments on Jesuit Murders

PA1711214289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2011 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas today reported that Armed Forces officers using loudspeakers "that were clearly heard" in northern San Salvador announced that Jesuits "Ignacio Ellacuria and Martin Baro have already fallen. Let us continue killing communists."

Ellacuria, Baro, four other priests, and two women were murdered on 16 November approximately 30 unidentified individuals wearing military uniforms, according to witnesses.

The archbishop stated that "the officer making the announcement over the loudspeaker added later that he was from the 1st Infantry Brigade" with headquarters in northern San Salvador, one of the most conflictive sectors of the capital.

The soldiers were urging the people to support the Armed Forces, the archbishop said. He noted that those who killed the Jesuits "took advantage of the current situation to get rid of them." Rivera y Damas stated: "There have been ill feelings about the Jesuits as analysts and scientists who were trying to explain the situation in the country. They had been insisting on the need for negotiations."

The government of President Alfredo Cristiani has condemned the murder of Jesuits Ellacuria, Baro, Segundo Montes, Amando Lopez, Joaquin Lopez, and Juan Ramon Moreno as well as that of Elba Ramos—an employee—and her 15-year-old daughter Cristina. The government has committed itself to conducting a thorough investigation into these crimes.

The official radio network has accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of killing the priests as well as David Blundy, THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT newsman who died after being seriously wounded this morning in Mejicanos, in northern San Salvador.

The government's radio network reported today: "The irrational behavior and barbarism of the FMLN has reached a peak: The terrorists have killed six Jesuits and a journalist."

Urges Cristiani To Investigate

PA1911191389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1742 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas today urged President Alfredo Cristiani and the Armed Forces to investigate the assassination of the six Jesuits, "because there is a strong presumption that the assassins may be Armed Forces members or people closely linked to the Army."

"President Cristiani and the Army's High Command have promised to conduct a thorough investigation. We have taken their word not just because there should be justice, but also because there is a strong presumption that the assassins may be from the Armed Forces or people very closely connected with the Armed Forces," Rivera y Damas said during the Sunday homily.

Following the religious ceremony, held at the "Sacred Heart" Basilica, and in the presence of some 50 newsmen, Rivera said: "I stand by my previous statement. I hope this will motivate President Cristiani and the Armed Forces."

According to witnesses, a group of people wearing military uniforms assassinated the Jesuits—five Spaniards and one Salvadoran, including Central American University Rector Ignacio Ellacuria—on 16 November. The assassins also killed two domestic workers. The Jesuits were buried today at the chapel of the Central American University, where they had been working for the past 25 years.

San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, who celebrated the mass—along with Rivera y Damas and German Bishop Emille Stelle—said that the church "is carrying out intense efforts to halt the combat, continue the dialogue process, and end the war in the country."

According to Rosa Chavez, the government as well as the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLM] guerrillas "agree that the church should mediate between the two parties."

Moreover, Rosa Chavez said on 18 November that the bishops met for over 2 hours with Cristiani "to search for alternatives to solve the conflict," and to end the war that has been waged for over a decade in El Salvador. He added that with the arrival of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, joint efforts will be made to find a peaceful solution to the war.

Rivera y Damas stressed that the clashes between the Army and the guerrillas during the past week have resulted in over 1,000 killed and an undetermined number of houses destroyed.

"The FMLN offensive has been useless and unjustified, but the Army's response with the Air Force and the artillery has been excessive," Rivera y Damas said. He requested that the "less affected" population "show solidarity with the more needy."

Funeral of Jesuits Concludes Without Incidents

PA1911233089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2147 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Report by Ricardo Chacon]

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, diplomats, left-wing and right-wing politicians, many members of the clergy, and the people in general today paid their final respects to the six Jesuits who were assassinated on Thursday, 16 November, by men who were wearing military uniforms and could have ties to the Army.

Cristiani, U.S. Ambassador William Walker, and leftist leaders Ruben Zamora and Humberto Centeno participated this morning in the Jesuits' funeral; there were no incidents.

The funeral, at which San Salvador Archishop Arturo Rivera y Damas officiated, was held at the Central American University (UCA), which was directed by the slain Jesuits and which the government and the Army had accused of supporting the guerrilla groups.

The body of Spanish priest Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the UCA, was carried by politicians like Zamora and members of the university directorate, which was founded by the Jesuits 25 years ago and has been known as an institution which criticizes right-wing regimes accused of violating human rights.

The bodies of Amando Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno, Ignacio Martin Baro, Segundo Montes, and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez (the first four Spaniards and the last one Salvadoran) were carried by men and women who had worked with them on several social projects.

The bodies were buried at the UCA chapel, which bears the name of "Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero" to honor the prelate asssassinated by "death squads" in 1980.

Moments before closing the crypt where the bodies were buried, the Jesuits' provincial leader in Central America, Spaniard Jose Maria Tojeira, said amid a round of applause: "The death of our brothers will become the source of our commitment to achieve peace and justice in El Salvador."

In addition to Cristiani and his wife, Margarita Llach, the funerals were also attended by Inocencio Arias, Spanish under secretary of foreign affairs, almost the entire diplomatic corps, Christian Democratic leaders, and leaders of other opposition parties.

Cristiani, who received communion and was coldly received by the other participants, arrived accompanied by Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro and Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso.

Tojeira said, with a breaking but firm voice, that the Jesuits' assassins "have not killed the Society of Jesus or the UCA," which provoked a loud and lengthy round of applause.

Approximately 70 Jesuits manage universities, high schools, schools, social groups, parishes, and centers for refugees of the civil war, which has afflicted the country for 10 years.

The funeral mass was jointly celebrated by the archbishop, Apostolic Nuncio Francesco de Nitis, Tojeira, and more than 40 Central American priests. The Society of Jesus' general provincial leader, Peter Hans Honhenbag from the Netherlands, sent his personal representative, Spanish Jesuit Tomas Sanchez del Rio.

Medardo Gomez, bishop of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, said in his address at the mass that "this assassination is a sin which cannot be forgiven by God and deserves eternal punishment."

De Nitis asserted: "We cannot remain idle; we must be the first to pledge to achieve man's overall development. The church has the right to pass judgment on any reality in human society."

"They (the Jesuits) lived for this church mission, (but) a minority in this country did not understand them," he added.

Moments before the funeral, Rivera y Damas asked the government and the Army to speed up the investigations and determine who is responsible for the crime.

According to the archbishop, "there is a strong belief that the Jesuits' assassins are members of the Armed Forces, or have close ties to them."

Cristiani, who has pledged to investigate the crime, asserted that if the culprits are members of the military or have ties to the Army, "the law will be strictly enforced against them."

Rebels Criticize U.S. Envoy Statement

PA1711161389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1429 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] We recently heard U.S. Ambassador William Walker on a Salvadoran television newscast. He said no one knew exactly who had planned the murder of Father Ignacio Ellacuria and the other Jesuit priests who were assassinated early yesterday morning.

Radio Venceremos tells William Walker that his cynicism is beyond the limit. William Walker knows perfectly well which General Staff office issued the order to assassinate the Jesuit priests.

William Walker knows that on the night of 11 November Radio Cuscatlan urged the people to assassinate Ignacio Ellacuria, Ruben Zamora, and Doctor Guillermo Ungo. The whole world....[corrects himself] the international media has featured the recording in which Radio Cuscatlan—the Armed Forces General Staff's radio, meaning the radio controlled by the Armed Forces General Staff, the radio in which not a single word, not a single comma goes out without the approval of the censors which have been imposed on Radio Cuscatlan—[words indistinct] death.

Therefore, William Walker knows perfectly well where the order came from; he knows the exact time that 40 uniformed men left in [words indistinct] curfew, a few blocks from Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce's office. William Walker's cynicism went beyond the limit when he said that he does not know [words indistinct] or who planned Ignacio Ellacuria's assassination.

William Walker is doing a historical imitation of the filibuster who came to Central America in 1856 to subjugate our people and become president of a Central American nation, meaning Nicaragua, who decreed that English be the official language, and that the U.S. flag become the occupation forces' flag. Wiliam Walker is re-editing a shameful chapter in Central America's history. William Walker, the U.S. ambassador in our homeland, is re-editing—in the form of a caricature—an historical event that occurred in the 19th century. However, we want to tell something to the new William Walker, who has been featured in press and television news reports giving figures that differ even from those given by Col Ponce; the new William Walker, who thinks he is president of the Republic and is better than Cristiani and Col Ponce, so he gives invented figures on guerrilla casualties; the new William Walker, who evaluates the nation's political and military situation, even before Cristiani and Ponce do so, even contradicting Col Ponce's figures. William Walker said 40 members of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] were captured, yet the bleary-eyed Col Ponce last night talked about 9 FMLN members. Where, then, are the rest of the captured FMLN fighters?

Humanitarian groups should pay attention to that contradiction between President William Walker and his subordinate, Col Ponce. Red Cross International, Green Cross, and Amnesty International must demand that William Walker say where the captured guerrilla fighters are, because Col Ponce only mentions nine fighters. Col Ponce talks about nine, and the other one talks about dozens. The international community must pay close attention to the contradiction between President William Walker and his subordinate, Col Ponce. Where are the other captured fighters? Most of them were surely civilians who have nothing to do with the conflict. They must have been caught in the war zones and then presented to the media as dead guerrilla fighters.

We demand, before the international community, that Ambassador William Walker clearly say how Col Ponce could have been mistaken when admitting that only nine guerrilla fighters were captured—while the U.S. ambassador personally revealed the figures that should have been revealed by President Cristiani a long time ago—even if they were imaginary figures. William Walker must answer this question: Where are the guerrilla fighters?

Rebels Ask U.S. Embassy 'Monitors' for Help

PA1711175389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1533 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] This morning, and with a stupid look on his face, U.S. Ambassador William Walker asked who had killed Father Ignacio Ellacuria. He said he did not know who had done this. Well then, Mr William Walker, and monitors at the U.S. Embassy, good morning; Radio Venceremos greets you. We are asking you to take down what we are going to say and take it immediately to William Walker's office.

Good morning U.S. Embassy monitors, tell William Walker—we do not know if he is from Tennessee like the other filibuster—that Radio Venceremos is giving him a clue so that he can find out who killed Father Ellacuria. Tell William Walker to find out who arrested two priests and several missionaries, including a U.S. citizen this morning.

Ambassador William Walker, this morning you asked who had murdered Father Ignacio Ellacuria; Radio Venceremos will give you a clue. Find out who ordered this morning's arrest of two priests. U.S. Ambassador William Walker, if you have a drop of decency left in you, speak up, tell us what you know. Tell us where the 40 men in uniform left from. U.S. Ambassador William Walker from Tennessee, that is, if you are from Tennessee like the other filibuster—Radio Venceremos is

giving you a clue so that you will find an answer to the question you candidly asked on television this morning. You said that you did not know who had ordered the death of one of the most intelligent men in El Salvador, not born in El Salvador but more Salvadoran than Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce.

We repeat, Mr Ambassador to El Salvador, the following is our clue: Find out who ordered the arrest of the priests and missionaries, including a U.S. citizen. Find out immediately, and you had better move quickly, otherwise they could be killed. There lies your answer. Ask whether the two priests were arrested by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] or the Armed Forces. We insist, if there is a single drop of decency left in you, check the Elena Fuentes statements against the church monitored a few days ago.

Mr Ambassador William Walker, if there is a single drop of decency left in you, check the recordings the U.S. Embassy has of Radio Cuscatlan and listen to what they said about Father Ignacio Ellacuria, Msgr Rivera y Damas, and Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez on the night of 11 November and earlier.

Gentlemen at the U.S. Embassy who are monitoring us, help the ambassador. Go to your files, find the Radio Cuscatlan recordings and take them to the ambassador's office. Monitors at the embassy, help that absent-minded ambassador. Monitors at the embassy, give him a hand; it seem that the ambassador's memory is failing him. Monitors, you who are so efficient, we ask you to help the ambassador regain his memory. Take him Col Elena Fuente's recording accusing the church of having ties with the FMLN. Take him Col Montano's statements, take him Col Zepeda's statements, take him Roberto D'Aubuisson's statements, accusing Father Ignacio Ellacuria of being the director of the war in El Salvador. Help us, U.S. Embassy monitors, because it seems that Mr William Walker has a very short memory.

Commentary Asks U.S. To Oust Cristiani Government

PA2011025889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0413 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Commentary entitled: "Either You Get Him Out or We Will"]

[Text] The miracles of war are unpredictable. In less than 24 hours, U.S. Ambassador William Walker passed from being the great-grandson of a filibuster to being a military analyst [words indistinct]. His military reports, recounting the battle to win San Salvador, do not convince many people, not even his own bosses back on Capitol Hill. Many congressmen have started to wonder if it is worthwhile to continue supporting the regime after observing the development of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Libration Front] national military operation and the response given to it by the Cristiani administration and the Armed Forces. They are having these afterthoughts because the regime's hands are covered with blood and it is politically and militarily unfit. Legislators such as Senator Patrick J. Leahy, [name indistinct], and Senator Christopher J. Dodd are already talking about cutting, modifying, or putting conditions on the aid to El Salvador. They even talk about a bill that will promote a negotiated solution to the conflict. This is what the FMLN has been proposing for a long time. The FMLN maintains its position in favor of a political solution to the conflict. The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government and the Armed Forces's command staff are the ones who have opposed such a solution.

To clear the way for a final and overall solution to the war is the reason why the FMLN is waging the military action that began 1 week ago. There is no possible political solution, no peace, no democracy, no human rights, and no nation with Cristiani and La Tandona [1966 graduating class of the Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy]. Nothing! The United States must immediately demand the ouster of Cristiani and La Tandona so a new government can put into motion a definite political negotiated solution to the conflict, the massacre and genocide will end, and the country, as well as the entire region, will become stable. As a key element in this conflict, the United States must show some political sanity, at least this time, and allow Salvadorans to settle the country's crisis.

The terms of the negotiations and the immediate tasks to democratize the country and achieve peace have been presented. Only a new government composed of all sectors of the masses can fulfill these tasks. Now is the time for the United States to correct the misguided foreign policy it has maintained for the past 10 years. If the United States insists on keeping Cristiani and the fascist military clique in power, they will be sticking the other foot in the quagmire in which their foreign policy in El Salvador and Central America is now caught. Many countries are already moving away from the stench of the Cristiani government. This is a good example, so all of that stench does not [as heard] stay only with the United States.

Further on Continued Fighting Nationwide

Rebels Call To Organize

PA1711141789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1234 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] We have started a new day, the 7th, and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is still holding its positions. We have not retreated a single step. If we make any move, it will be to advance toward the enemy barracks, because we will seize power and expel the military dictatorship that has installed itself in our homeland. The FMLN maintains for the 7th day its positions in the departmental capitals. We continue to advance in San Miguel; we have made an important seizure of weapons in San Miguel.

The situation could not be better in San Salvador. Last night we reported that the arch of liberty exists in the

capital; it is comprised of neighborhoods and housing projects—where the protagonists of this history are the masses, which are organized for the construction of trenches and barricades. The people are the most important protagonists in this historic action.

Radio Venceremos urges the people to multiply their organization in each neighborhood, residential area, and town. Popular committees must be organized; the people must organize themselves; but if the enemy is near, this must be done clandestinely. All the groups in each town, meaning the religious groups, student organizations, teachers organizations, and cooperatives, must all organize, regardless of their political beliefs. Our unity must become the best tool to evict, once and for all, the murderous military dictatorship which assassinates priests and which bombed the capital again early this morning. It has again caused more deaths and wounded in San Salvador.

It is important for the people to organize committees in each neighborhood, residential area, and town, and the whole community must participate. If the Armed Forces are near, then clandestine organization must be conducted in small towns, villages, and neighborhoods. The people must organize themselve to conspire against death, to conspire against the assassins, to conspire against poverty, to conspire against hunger, and to conspire against the bombings. It is necessary to organize the people; it is necessary to organize the entire country. El Salvador must become a body comprised of organized cells—everywhere and in every possible form—regardless of the people's religious beliefs or political party.

We issue an appeal to the deceived ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] rank and file, who voted believing that this government would represent a change for the better. We also issue an appeal to all the patriotic citizens of the homeland, urging them to stop the destruction of the capital, to stop the destruction of the country. We urge them to unite and stop the war; and the end of the war is near—with the people's victory.

We will organize a pluralist government that includes representatives of all the nation's patriotic groups. Let us save our capital, which is being bombed due to a foreign way of thinking. It is being bombed and destroyed by an occupation Army. The airplanes are now being flown by U.S. pilots at night, and they have the mentality of an occupation Army.

Salvadorans, let us unite and organize ourselves. Let us not remain idle. We must mobilize ourselves right now and organize a committee in each neighborhood, residential area, and town. The people must organize. The FMLN has begun its 7th day in the capital, and we are sure that we are advancing toward victory. Victory will be ours, and Colonel Ponce has given proof of his desperation with the Jesuit priests' assassination in San Salvador. He has overstepped his mark, and the people's patience is exhausted. We urge all our people to join the general uprising, struggle, take up weapons, and organize everything necessary to oust this corrupt and murderous regime. We urge the people to mobilize,to take up weapons, and to stay in the neighborhoods and residential areas to struggle for the liberation of our homeland. We must achieve progress.

Information has just arrived from the United States indicating that the U.S. Government has begun to withdraw its unconditional support for the death squads in El Salvador. Information received from the United States indicates that the U.S. Government has begun to recant its irresponsible and genocidal attitude of sending U.S. pilots to bomb our capital by night. That is the professional training that U.S. imperialism is currently giving the Armed Forces, meaning to bomb the capital by night, as all the people in the capital have witnessed in recent hours.

Thus, we issue an appeal to the people: Organize yourselves. We will achieve victory. We are sure of this. The blood of Ignacio Ellacuria, the blood of the Jesuits, the blood of Monsignor Arnulfo Romero, the blood of the 4 U.S. nuns, the blood of the 11 priests assassinated [words indistinct], the blood of [words indistinct] seminarians, youths [words indistinct], and for all the blood shed. We must win, we must achieve victory, we must attain a true democracy for our homeland—a democracy with freedom of expression, food, education, and justice.

FMLN War Bulletin No 4

PA1711145989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1325 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front War Bulletin No 4 isssued on 17 November]

[Text] Six days after having initiated our offensive in the capital city and the entire country, there has been an overwhelming trend toward the consolidation and broadening of FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] positions in important cities and towns in the country, which have played leading roles because the people have supported and joined the struggle.

Today we completed an arch of freedom in San Salvador by extending and connecting several areas under our control, after repelling and swamping the government's special battalions in five counterattacks supported by armored vehicles and aerial bombings.

Our fighters displayed singular (?heroism) during the occupation of the Cuscatancingo headquarters and the commands in Mejicanos and Ciudad Delgado, where we captured a large arsenal of weapons and ammunition, and during clashes in [name indistinct], Soyapango, Ciudad Merliot, and [name indistinct].

The FMLN also has forces along the leading routes to the capital city; these forces harass and hinder Army deployments on the Pan-American Highway, and on the San Salvador-Santa Tecla highway.

We now highlight our forces' feats: Companies formed by popular forces have extended their control over new areas and cities in San Miguel and Usulutan, where weapons have been seized and prisoners of war taken. We stress our permanent harassment of enemy forces in Zacatecoluca, Chalatenango, Santa Ana, Apopa, San Martin, San Marcos, Nueva Concepcion, Santa Elena, and other towns.

Transportation has been paralyzed since the FMLN declared a stoppage, and most of the country is without electricity due to sabotage. The critical deadline the High Command set for itself to recover our positions has passed, and our forces have assaulted headquarters in controlled areas and have requisitioned weapons and ammunition.

Hundreds of youths continue to join our Army. Without popular support the FMLN would not have achieved political-military victories of such dimensions as to take the enemy by surprise and earn the world's admiration.

In the past 2 days the FMLN has inflicted dozens of casualties among the Army's officers and troops, and it has taken five prisoners of war, among whom are a captain and a lieutenant, whose physical and mental well being has been respected. The FMLN has seized (?63) rifles, 4 machine guns, 3 grenade launchers, 5 PRC-77 radios, [words indistinct], and thousands of rounds of ammunition from the occupied headquarters and commands.

We call on all the people to join the uprising [word indistinct] against the fascist genocide. We ask the officers and troops not to continue serving in an army that is behaving like a foreign occupation army, [words indistinct] the civilian population, executing priests, and massacring labor leaders.

In the cities and countryside, a sea of guerrillas [break in reception].

Government Communique on Aid

PA1711190289 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1656 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Communique No 3 entitled "Humanitarian Aid for the Victims of Terrorism," issued in San Salvador on 17 November]

[Text] Work teams formed by Interior Ministry personnel have distributed food to the Salvadoran people within the context of the "Humanitarian Aid for the Victims of Terrorism" plan.

Many Salvadoran families have been forced to leave their homes because of the aggression promoted by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists since 11 November, which [words indistinct] victims among the civilian population.

The government is making a great effort to attend to the affected people's basic needs, such as food, potable water, and medical services. Employees from the Interior, Public Works, and Health Ministries and from other state institutions have volunteered to help the terrorists' victims.

Jose Francisco Merino, interior minister and vice president, is leading the work teams in charge of distributing food to the people affected by the terrorism; the teams have urged the people to remain calm. The situation is under control, Merino said, adding that the terrorist groups have been surrounded by the Armed Forces. The Salvadoran people must have faith that the democratic system will prevail, and that slowly but surely we will achieve peace through reasonable means.

FMLN Communique on U.S. Pilots

PA1711203189 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 1946 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Communique from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command, dated 17 November in El Salvador]

[Text] The FMLN informs all the Salvadoran people and the international community:

1. The FMLN confirms that U.S. pilots are flying helicopters over San Salvador.

2. At this very moment, at midday 17 November, the Armed Forces are attacking FMLN positions in a populated section in the northern part of the capital. In this operation, 12 helicopters, supposedly belonging to U.S. Air Force. are takng part, flown by U.S. pilots. We warn that direct intervention of U.S. pilots in El Salvador's combat endanger the area's stability.

[Signed] FMLN General Command. Commander Francisco Jovel, Commander Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, Commander Eduardo Sancho, Commander Joaquin Villalobos

[Issued in] El Salvador, 17 November 1989.

Villalobos on Priests' Murder

PA1711211489 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 1637 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Report on interview with Joaquin Villalobos, member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN); date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Villalobos referred to the bombings and the killing of the Jesuit priests. This is the question he was asked: In the past few hours, several governments and humanitarian organizations have pressured the government to stop the bombings and the bloodshed in our homeland. However, despite this international pressure, the Jesuit priests were killed in San Salvador. Therefore, what is the intention behind the

bombings? What intention did the Armed Forces' General Staff have in killing the Jesuits? Commander Villalobos replied:

[Begin Villalobos recording] First, it must be said that the killing of the Jesuit priests by the Cristiani government was a harsh blow to the possibilities for an effective democracy in our country. The Jesuit priests are a sector of Salvadoran society that has made and continues to make great contributions to our people's education. They taught us how to debate, the need to reason things out, and the need to have political pluralism.

However, it is evident that the Salvadoran Armed Forces, the [word indistinct] sectors, and Mr. Cristiani cannot stand intelligent people, the debates, the analyses, and the people's reasoning. This is why they committed this crime.

The responsibility for this crime becomes evident, not only based on direct circumstances such as the fact that it was carried out by uniformed men during the curfew period and that a few days before the crime a group of military men checked out the place where they were going to commit the crime—clearly intending to prepare a plan—but because of accusations against the Jesuits made over the national network. We must also bear in mind that this crime was a political mistake made by the dictatorship. It was a miscalculation on the part of those who made that decision.

We have already mentioned that the Armed Forces have been unable to stop the FMLN. They could not stop the FMLN plan. Once we began to implement the plan [1-second break in reception] a very critical situation.

Within the framework of this critical situation, they took the wrong step. The day before the crime the Armed Forces began a strategy to wear out the FMLN logistically. We must not ignore the fact that the Armed Forces' calculations were based on the assumption that the FMLN forces would become exhausted. We would have made a serious mistake if we had begun this plan without foreseeing all these circumstances. However, the Armed Forces based their calculations on our possible exhaustion.

Consequently, based on those calculations, they figured that they had 3 or 4 days to launch a counterattack. So, the day prior to the killing of the Jesuit priests, they launched several offensives—I prefer to call them counteroffensives—to try to dislodge us from our positions. Their tactic was to make us waste ammunition. They were not really trying to make us abandon our positions yet.

However, our fighters, in addition to saving our ammunition, have the material and human resources, so they inflicted many casualties on the Armed Forces and wore them out. However, it seems that the Armed Forces did not realize that and felt that they could launch a big counterattack to annihilate the FMLN forces. Based on that, they came up with a plan that was not only military but political. [Words indistinct] the U.S. ambassador, the U.S. advisers, the Bush administration, and who knows who else were informed about this plan. They made the wrong interpretation of the calls made by the International Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations on the need to have a truce to evacuate civilians. They thought that we made these calls and based on that, they felt that they could proceed to a counteroffensive.

Based on that, let us analyze the propaganda and information disseminated on the day prior to the killing of the Jesuits. The U.S. ambassador himself explained a war report and gave an update on the situation. Thus, they thought that the FMLN was going to suffer a great political and military defeat in the next few hours. They had an overall plan.

[Words indistinct] The Army carried out a heavy bomb attack on northern San Salvador in an effort to weaken our positions. [Words indistinct] they thought they were going to have a victory there. But it just so happens that, aside from all the propaganda they used and the plan to weaken us militarily, the Armed Forces attacked union offices and the homes of leaders of popular movements in various sectors. Apparently, everyone had gone into hiding and they only found the wife of a university leader and they killed her. They also found the Jesuits. It seems that in view of recent talks with Cristiani, Father Ellacuria had become very trusting. He thought that nothing would happen to them. [30-second break in reception] this situation so they did not protect themselves in the face of the danger of a possible action such as this crime.

On the same night when the entire northern San Salvador area was being bombed, the Jesuits were killed. What was their intention? They thought they were to obtain a military victory and set out to carry out a witch hunt. They set out to kill all opposition members that one night, with the idea that they were going to wipe out the FMLN, militarily. Based on that assumption, they decided to carry out this action to guarantee for themselves a few more years of stability through the peace of cemeteries, regardless of the consequences.

What really happened? The day after they committed the crime, they launched their offensive to annihilate the FMLN. They thought this was going to be their decisive day, but the offensive failed. Their attack was repelled, they sustained many casualties, and loss much materiel. Their troops were further beaten, and they did not obtain any effective military results.

Consequently, their counteroffensive was rejected and the blow they thought they were going to deal to the leaders of the popular movement failed, on the one hand because some of these leaders were hiding and on the other because they committed a horrendous crime that backfired. It was a crime [word indistinct] by the General Staff, and Mr. Cristiani knew about it. Cristiani clearly [words indistinct] and probably even the U.S. Embassy could be involved in this. They thought that by killing all opposition members, they were going to

achieve definite peace in El Salvador. This is very clear, but this action backfired. It was a painful incident, but it is an incident that is going to backfire for the government. It is going to result in great isolation for the regime, at a moment when the FMLN is stronger. At a moment when the FMLN has a political, military, and strategic advantage.

The murder of the Jesuits is suicide for the regime. I really do not understand it. They made a very serious mistake. In addition, they confirmed a truth we have been maintaining: They are fascists and assassins. They must leave power. They have created a situation in which the possibility for an FMLN victory is great. They have created a situation in which the disappearance of the most conservative oligarchic sectors of the Salvadoran society will be caused by their own mistakes. [end recording]

Death Squads Blamed for Killing

PA1711235289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2255 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Mrs Norma Girola Herrera, wife of a professor who holds a leadership position at the university, was assassinated on the evening when the death squads operated. Fortunately, they were unable to achieve all their goals, which included the total breakdown of neighorhoods in northern San Salvador and the occupation of our positions.

Army: Usulutan '80-Percent Normal'

PA1811033489 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0248 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Captain Velasquez, from the 6th Infantry Brigade Command at Usulutan, reports to the residents of the Santa Clara, San Rafael, Altamira, Guevara, Florida, and Peralta neighborhoods—who have been displaced from their homes by the terrorist criminals—that they may return to their homes on 18 November, because the terrorist criminals have been dislodged from their positions.

The brigade command also reports that the situation in Usulutan is 80-percent normal. At the same time, we wish to recognize the efforts made by the Atonal, Oromontique, Jucuaran, and Lenca Battalions as well as the security corps, who have done an excellent job in these past 5 days of combat.

FMLN War Bulletin No 5

PA1811043489 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 0307 GMT 18 Nov 89

[War Bulletin No 5 issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command on 17 November]

[Text] On the 7th day of the offensive, the FMLN has taken a strategic turn in the war, as we begin to struggle for power in a new and definite scenario of operations in the cities, with the insurrectional participation of the people seeking to achieve peace and democracy. The fighting waged in San Salvador, San Miguel, Usulutan, Zacatecoluca, Santa Ana, and other parts of the country have been possible thanks to the leading role played by the people who have supported and joined the struggle.

The 7 days of our offensive have exposed the military fascist dictatorship to the eyes of the world. The dictatorship has removed its civilian mask, and it has shown its barbaric nature, as it bombed cities and murdered Jesuit priests, who were members of a national conscience that is seeking social changes and peace in El Salvador.

These crimes committed by Cristiani and Colonel Ponce [chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff] definitely isolate them from the rest of the world, which condemns them and remembers the last days of Somoza. In the meantime, the U.S. Congress discusses cutting military aid to the regime. The 7 days of our offensive have led to irreversible achievements. The regime has been defeated in the political arena and fataly wounded in the military field.

In 7 days of combat in the capital city, the high command lost its last defensive line. Our forces are hitting hard at their tired heart. Victory is a fact that no one can alter.

During the offensive, we killed or wounded an estimated 827 troops and officers. We seized 127 long weapons, 21 machine guns and support weapons, as well as about 80,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibers. We have confirmed reports that we have damaged 11 aircraft and destroyed 27 armored personnel carriers.

The humiliating defeat of the high command is evident in a depressed Col Ponce, who no longer speaks of the guerrillas in pockets along the border. Instead, he speaks in front of a map of the capital city, pointing out the FMLN's presence and advances.

Various political and social groups of El Salvador have initiated efforts on the international level to achieve a consensus to form a new government that will put an end to the war and bring about the nation's democratization. The FMLN looks favorably on these efforts, and it has already actively joined these national sectors opposed to the genocide being carried out by the high command in a suicidal attempt to preserve the war that it has turned into a business deal.

The General Command recognizes the heroism of our fighters and calls on them to continue advancing with our rebels in the final chapter of this history.

[Signed] The FMLN General Command, 17 November 1989

FMLN Burns Steel Factory

PA1811201389 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1823 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Early this morning subversives burned the steel factory in Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department. No victims were reported. The Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment reported that heavy damage was done to the steel factory and that hundreds of workers are now without a job as a result of this subversive action. It was also learned that extremists stole a Red Cross ambulance in Mejicanos and kidnapped three Red Cross volunteers who were in the vehicle. According to the National Police report, this incident occurred last night at 1940. The National Police has also reported that the terrorists are stripping the residents of their identification cards in areas like Soyapango, Ciudad Delgado, and near the San Sebastian Cemetery. The terrorists are forcing the residents of those areas to remain there, using them to shield themselves, thus causing more civilan victims.

Green Cross Workers Held Hostage

PA1811202289 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1603 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] We have learned that in Guadalupe neighborhood, Soyapango, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberaton Front] terrorists are shielding themselves with civilians—currently holding more than 300 persons hostage. Among the hostages are several members of the Salvadoran Green Cross and wounded civilians, who tried to escape but were machine-gunned by the terrorists. The people are abandoning the FMLN rebels because they do not share their communist ideology. We have also learned that in Guadalupe neighborhood five terrorists decided to surrender to the Armed Forces. They were motivated by the victorious advance of the Salvadoran Army and because of the vile deeds their commanders are forcing them to do, like machine-gunning the civilians and Green Cross workers. The terrorists are waiting for members of the International Red Cross to come to Guadalupe neighborhood to get them out.

Venceremos Reports Plane Downing

PA1811213289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1954 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, here is a last minute report. Attention, fighters throughout the country:

It has been confirmed that at 1820 today the enemy began strafing the 15 September and EL Molino neighborhoods using an A-37 plane.

Our forces, defending the civilian population in San Miguel and the residents in the 15 September and El Molino neighborhoods, directed anti-aircraft fire against this A-37 plane.

We confirm the downing of an A-37 aircraft at approximately 1800 today. The report says that a Dragonfly A-37 plane was hit by our antiaircraft fire and plummeted to the ground. We are now in contact with our companero Jorge Melendez in San Miguel, who has confirmed this report.

Ponce on Guerrilla Casualties

PA1811210889 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1833 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has reported that during clashes throughout the country between the courageous and brave soldiers of the Armed Forces and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist criminals, the Army has killed or wounded more than 1,000 rebels.

Col Ponce said that, based on recent figures, 655 Marxist-Leninist guerrillas have been killed and 491 have been wounded.

According to Col Ponce, the Army has confiscated 324 rifles of various calibers, including more than 100 AK-47's, 26 mortars, 75 rocket and grenade launchers, 8 machine guns, and 40 other types of weapons, as well as a large amount of ammunition and material to fabricate bombs.

He also said that Army troops had dismantled four guerrilla arsenals in the northern sector of Mejicanos.

Col Ponce thanked citizens for their moral support to the various Armed Forces units by supplying important information concerning the rebels.

FMLN on 'Heavy' Clashes in North

PA1811220089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1520 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention. We have a last-minute report. The report is coming from the capital city. Heavy clashes are continuing this morning in various parts of northern San Salvador.

Clashes are continuing in the northeastern neighborhoods of San Salvador, and heavy fighting is taking place in Ciudad Delgado. The enemy troops are supported by armored vehicles, helicopters, and a [word indistinct] small plane, but our comrades are maintaining their positions in Ciudad Delgado.

This is a last minute report. Heavy fighting is currently taking place in the San Salvador northeastern neighborhoods. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is determined to win. Ciudad Delgado continues fighting. There are also heavy clashes in Mejicanos.

Attention. Heavy clashes are not just taking place in San Salvador. Clashes also continue in San Miguel City. The FMLN positions in San Miguel continue to be strong. We continue to advance in San Miguel City.

The report coming from San Miguel states that clashes continue at this time. Ciudad Delgado and San Miguel are both centers of popular fighting.

Radio Venceremos is receiving last-minute reports. Today, Saturday 18 November, we are receiving a report saying that at 0500, our fighters began a counterattack on positions of the Armed Forces Engineers Military Detachment, DEMIFA. The DEMIFA position was attacked, and the clashes have spread to [words indistinct] and the DEMIFA headquarters. [passage indistinct]

In addition, a steel factory in Zacatecoluca was sabotaged after dislodging the [word indistinct] DEMIFA troops.

We repeat. The FMLN began a counterattack on the DEMIFA headquarters in Zacatecoluca at 0500 today. The clashes in Zacatecoluca City, La Paz Department have spread north, west, and east of the DEMIFA headquarters.

At 0500, the FMLN forces began to move in the DEMIFA headquarters, attacking it with rifle and artillery fire and machineguns. In Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department, our forces took control of the entire steel factory. After dislodging the enemy troops, our forces set the factory on fire. The factory is owned by one of the oligarchic families that finance the death squads.

The reports we have just read to you, which came from San Salvador, Zacatecoluca, and San Miguel—three very important Salvadoran cities—indicate that fighting has increased today. At this time, the Air Force is bombing FMLN positions in Ciudad Delgado, northeastern San Salvador. The Air Force is now conducting an indiscriminate attack in densely populated areas.

Rebels on Actions in Zacatecoluca

PA1911001789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2201 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, pay close attention. The following is the military report we have received from Zacatecoluca, where our men hold several areas.

At 0500 this morning, our units launched a large offensive against several positions of the Armed Forces' Engineers Military Detachment and Jiboa Battalion troops in Zacatecoluca. At 0500, our men took control of the Acero S.A. steel factory, which belongs to the millionaire family [name indistinct]. Our men proceeded to set fire to the machinery, offices, four trucks, and a Caterpiller. Our men also took control of the installations of the Zacatecoluca Institute of Supply Regulation and sabotaged two vans and a Caterpillar. Our men fought against Jiboa Battalion soldiers from 0530 to 0830, and we inflicted one casualty on the enemy there.

At the same time, several guerrilla units started attacking enemy units in the following areas in Zacatecoluca: Colonia 20 de Septiembre, Barrio El Calvario, Santa Lucia, La Cruz, El Centro, and the Zacatecoluca railroad station. Our men inflicted 16 casualties on the Jiboa Battalion at the cemetery and the station; 35 casualties on the same battalion at Calvario, Santa Lucia, and El Centro; and 11 casualties on the Engineers Military Detachment at Colonia 27 de Septiembre. In total, as of 1600 today, our men have inflicted 52 casualties on the Jiboa Battalion and 11 on the Engineers Military Detachment.

Our men also destroyed a Massinger truck in the [word indistinct]. The FMLN troops were able to recuperate the following: 1 LAW rocket launcher, an M-62, and other war materiel. Our men also constructed three barricades on the Zacatecoluca-Tecoluca and Zacatecoluca-El Espino roads.

This is the 18 November report from the areas controlled in Zacatecoluca city. We send our salute and our admiration to the comrades who have been in Zacateluca since early Sunday morning. You have the support of all our people. Forward warriors, the troops of the [word indistinct] are not going to be able to take it much longer. They cannot be sent reinforcements. Onward, do not lower your guard against the government troops.

Armed Forces Casualty Report

PA1911023689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0040 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces and Security Corps have inflicted the following casualties on the enemy: 784 dead, 357 wounded. The Armed Forces also seized the following equipment: 376 rifles, 3 carbines, 11 shotguns, 83 rocket launchers, 26 mortars, 8 machineguns, 17 submachineguns, 31 pistols, 17 radios.

This has been a report on the casualties inflicted by our glorious Armed Forces on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] criminal terrorists. The report included the war materiel seized in the last few hours from the FMLN communists.

Armed Forces Review Situation

PA1911043289 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0255 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Report from the National Information Center]

[Text] The Armed Forces of El Salvador hereby report to the Salvadoran people the military situation throughout the national territory.

Metropolitan area: In the capital city, army troops control the areas of Cuscatancingo and Mejicanos, particularly the Zacamil, Regalado, and (El Sol) neighborhoods, where the army is constantly patrolling the area to prevent new subversive attacks. In Ciudad Delgado, Armed Forces personnel are fighting small groups of extremists who have hidden in several homes in Lomas

del Rio and San Sebastian neighborhoods, where there are still some terrorists who will be expelled in a few hours.

Likewise, Army troops are conducting counterinsurgency operations in Guadadalupe, Suyapa, and Los Santos neighborhoods, Soyapango Municipality, where there was some fighting yesterday and this morning. The number of casualties inflicted on the enemy is not available yet. The Army is controlling the situation in the (Amatepec) and Ciudad Credisa neighborhoods and in Santa Marta No 2, where there still is a slight problem. At noon today troops fought the terrorists in the northern part of Mejicanos, but there are no reports on casualties yet. The rebels are fleeing the Santa Marta neighborhood and other nearby areas.

Western Zone: The 2d Infantry Brigade, together with Military Detachments No 6 and No 7, control the western part of the country. This includes Santa Ana, Sonsonate, and Ahuachapan Departments, where there is no major problem. There have been some clashes and encounters, but these have been unimportant and without any serious consequences for the civilian and military population.

Eastern Zone: The 3d Infantry Brigade, headquartered in San Miguel City, reported this morning that their troops were fighting small rebel groups in Francisco Gaviria, 15 September, El Molino, and Lopez neighborhoods. Brigade officers said they expect to have full control in a few hours. They also said that at least 15 rebels were buried in common graves on the outskirts of San Miguel City, where they were abandoned by their comrades—who began to flee yesterday afternoon as a result of the Army's constant actions in that area of the country.

The report adds that the situation in Morazan and La Union Departments is under the control of Military Detachments No 3 and No 4, which are currently combing the areas under their responsibility. In addition, the 6th Infantry Brigade has reported that 56 rebels have been killed and approximately 60 others have been wounded, since the beginning of the failed final offensive called "To The Hilt." The 6th Infantry Brigade adds that joint counterinsurgency operations are being carried out with Atonal Battalion troops.

In the last 48 hours, the Armed Forces have confiscated 10 AK-47 rifles, 6 M-16 machine guns, 2 UZI machine guns, 1 MP-5 submachine gun, large quantities of ammunition, and materiel to make explosives.

Similarly, the 6th Infantry Brigade reports that harassment operations were carried out this morning near a cemetery, Chula Vista neighborhood, and El Nanzal Hill on the outskirts of the aforementioned city.

Paracentral Area: The 5th Infantry Brigade, along with its Military Detachment No 2 and Engineers Military Detachment, has its areas of responsibility under control, especially in San Vicente, Sensuntepeque, Ilobasco, and other municipalities in Cabanas and La Paz Departments.

Up until now, there have been only small clashes in northern Zacatecoluca City and in areas surrounding the Zacatecoluca stadium and hospital. Several harassment operations and the burning of a steel factory took place early this morning in those areas, but no casualties have been reported.

Members of the Engineers Military Detachment are combing the aforementioned areas in order to completely dislodge the terrorist groups that are still circulating in the area.

Number of FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] casualties up until this morning:

The Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff confirm that 784 terrorists have been killed, and 527 have been wounded. The Armed Forces also report that 129 rebels have been arrested and that 36 others showed up at various Army posts located throughout the country.

Armed Forces casualties include 208 Army members killed and 427 wounded. As for weapons confiscated, the Army says it has confiscated 370 rifles, 82 grenade launchers, 26 mortars, 18 machine guns, 17 submachine guns, large quantities of ammunition, handguns, and large amounts of explosive materiel.

The Army has found more weapons in Zacamil neighborhood:

Today, Army troops patrolling Zacamil neighborhood in northwestern San Salvador found 47 M-16 rifles, 35,000 cartridges, 49 cartridge clips, and various explosives. The weapons were hidden inside a medium-size truck found during a search operation conducted at noon today near Zacamil neighborhood. At present, Armed Forces members maintain total control over the Zacamil neighborhood and other surrounding areas.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces thank the Salvadoran people for their valuable cooperation and for their support for the various Army groups that are determined to dislodge the terrorist groups located in various parts of the country, especially in San Salvador.

Similarly, the Armed Forces congratulate our glorious chiefs, officers, and troops, who tenaciously, bravely, and heroically defend our people and homeland from the genocide imposed by the FMLN hordes.

In addition, the Armed Forces warn the terrorists who still persist in their blind struggle against the Salvadoran people that its firm and implacable advance will continue. The Armed Forces ask those terrorists to surrender and turn themselves in to spare the honest population from more suffering. The Armed Forces will be benevolent with those who surrender.

The Armed Forces reiterate their unyielding willingness to continue struggling in defense of national sovereignty and the democratic process to preserve the freedom of all Salvadorans.

San Salvador, 18 November 1989

Situation 'Under Control'

PA1911174689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1650 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Bulletin issued by the National Information Center, CIN, in San Salvador; no date given]

[Text] CIN reports the following to the Salvadoran people:

1. The Armed Forces has absolute control over national territory in San Miguel, Zacatecoluca, Usulutan, Santa Ana, and San Salvador. The situation is under control; only a few snipers remain in buildings and trees.

2. Citizens who are still still seeking refuge in their work places are advised to return to their respective homes before 1800 when the curfew begins.

3. Parents are advised to maintain calm in their homes and ensure that their children do not leave home until order has been fully restored.

4. The press, radio, and television are warned that if they broadcast any information to public, which has not been confirmed by the CIN, they could face penalites; their facilities could be indefinitely closed.

5. The Salvadoran people must realize that the Security Corps, National Guard, Treasury Police, National Police, and Rapid Deployment Battalions such as the Atlcatl, Atonal, Arce, Belloso, and Bracamonte, and brigades belonging to our glorious Armed Forces have successfully defeated FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] murderers to ensure the freedom and tranquillity of our Salvadoran brothers. Warlike operations launched in Zacamil neighborhood, which involved ground and air forces, were necessary because of the violence and cruelty shown by the terrorist murderers against the civilian population.

6. All basic and vital services in the country, such as water and electricity, are being provided normally and are under Armed Forces control.

7. With great satisfaction, we report to the Salvadoran people that the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces have received expressions of support from nearly all professional unions and business groups. They have agreed to resume daily activities to support President Cristiani's efforts to bring about peace and progress.

Apopa Residents Urged To Evacuate

PA1911175589 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1659 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention please: The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists are focusing on Apopa Municipality, in Madre Tierra, Santa Lucia, Cintu One and Two, Tierra Nuestra, La Ermita, Finca San Andres neighborhoods, La Ponderosa Development, San Cayetano Development, San Martin de Porras neighborhood and El Tikal.

The Armed Forces urges all residents in the aforementioned Apopa areas to reject the criminal FMLN assassains and terrorists and to evacuate the area. This will prevent civilians from being used as shields by the FMLN terrorists, as they did with people living in Zacamil, Mejicanos, and other places.

Attention, attention please, we urge residents of the aforementioned areas in Apopa jurisdiction to evacuate the zone by carrying white flags. We also urge residents in the aforementioned zones to ignore FMLN lies, because the FMLN is telling people that if they carry white flags the Air Force will bomb them. That is false. The Armed Forces respect human rights. That is clear. The Armed Forces are ready to defend civilians from the FMLN violations of the most fundamental rights.

Apopa residents: Evacuate your homes because the Armed Forces will be relentless with the FMLN criminals who have only caused death and grief to Salvadorans.

Salvadoran people: Reject the FMLN criminals by placing white flags in your homes and vehicles, and by carrying white flags. Do not cooperate under pressure with those assassains and criminals. Your Armed Forces are defending you.

Attention residents of the following Apopa neighborhoods: Madre Tierra, Santa Lucia, Cintu One, Two, Tierra Nuestra, La Ermita, Finca San Andres, La Ponderosa Development, San Cayetano Development, San Martin de Porras and El Tikal neighborhoods. Evacuate those places because at this moment your Armed Forces are heading toward those areas to expell those terrorists attacking you.

This is an announcement for Apopa residents: The Armed Forces are defending you.

'Heavy Fighting' in Usulutan

PA1911192189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1640 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] We have just received a report from Usulutan. The report states that heavy fighting continues in Usulutan. Our forces remain in various areas around Usulutan. The report adds that heavy fighting against the 3rd Infantry Brigade, National Guard, and National Police troops continues. We wish to remind you that during the first day of the offensive, our troops waged heavy combat

against the Army in the downtown area of Usulutan and since that day have remained in the outlying area. Our forces are constantly entering Usulutan itself. The report also states that since the occupation of Santa Elena and Osotlan, during the first few days of the offensive, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] operations in Usulutan—the so-called nation's granary—have taken a military turn. The Army has entered a defensive phase. The Army's counteroffensive movements have been incoherent and inefficient.

We have just contacted Roger Blandino Nerio, a commander in the Usulutan area who is providing us with this information. Blandino said that the enemy troops in Usulutan are not coordinated and are out of control. He added that in the past few hours the number of desertions has increased within the Atonal Battalion and Infantry Brigade. The use of aircraft has not stopped, and civilian victims have been reported in Usulutan and Santa Elena where an O-2 plane fired rockets against the civilian population of the area. Rockets have a been fired in Usulutan.

Comrade Blandino reports that Usulutan, as everyone knows, is a small city surrounded by many small neighborhoods. That is where our forces have entrenched themselves and are receiving the growing support of the people. Youths from the area have already joined our forces.

FMLN on Helicopter Downing

PA1911235389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2313 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Attention. We have reports that there is heavy fighting going on in the northern part of San Salvador and in Apopa. Pay close attention. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has intensified fighting against special battalions in San Salvador. We also report that during this fighting in San Salvador, our anti-aircraft crews downed a Salvadoran Air Force helicopter at 1600 this afternoon. We hit the helicopter near Saquiro in Arce Street and it crashed. We are to receive more details and a report about the crew's fate later.

We repeat, a Salvadoran Air Force helicopter was downed in San Salvador at 1600 today. This is the second helicopter we have downed in urban combat. At the beginning of our offensive we reported that a helicopter had been downed and one of its pilots had been killed.

Defense Minister on Fighting

PA2011050789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0314 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Statement by General Rafael Humberto Larios, defense and public security minister, in San Salvador on 19 November—recorded]

[Text] Dear Salvadoran people, our Republic, our society, and our people became the victims of a murderous and terrorist aggression 8 days ago. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] carried out an incursion in our country and vented all its fury and all its terror against the Salvadoran people. This violent, irrational, illogical, and senseless action began 8 days ago against peace-loving people who want to work, choose their own destiny, and seek their welfare.

On this occasion I am deeply moved by the Salvadoran people's attitude; and, in my role as defense and public security minister, I heartily congratulate them. The Salvadoran people's attitude has reflected their stoicism, strong will, and indomitable spirit, hope, and faith in God and the Armed Forces.

Salvadoran people, your attitude in recent days has been dignified and has set an example. It is worthy of the Salvadoran people, who have always proved their faith and willingness to defend a just and noble cause, the homeland's cause. This is precisely what has given the Salvadoran people the will to live, love, and achieve peace.

Your attitude encourages us, places us under an obligation, and urges us—as an institution at the service of the people—to continue the struggle to the end, so that we may eradicate forever the terror, violence, and disrespect that the terrorist forces have tried to impose on our hard-working and innocent people.

Salvadoran people, your attitude is exemplary, and we, the professional soldiers, are prepared—as we have always been—to support and defend under any circumstances and in any event the security, order, tranquillity, work, and peace that all the Salvadoran people have a right to enjoy.

Onward, Salvadoran people. As an institution we need your support. Your support is important and your understanding is necessary. You must believe in and trust the Armed Forces, because we, who are also people like you, understand the legitimate demand and desire for peace, faith, and hope which prevail in the hearts and minds of all Salvadoran citizens—and we are pleased and satisfied to defend them.

The Armed Forces are an institution which has the responsibility of guaranteeing the Salvadoran people's welfare, and they are highly encouraged, deeply pleased, and determined to continue their work. They will defend the Salvadoran people and guarantee them a future with dignity, peace, welfare, and security.

This is our responsibility, this is our mission; and we are willing to give our lives in sacrifice, as has been proved by the many heroic soldiers who are dying in this struggle to defend justice, peace, democracy, and the well-being of these people whom we love so much, the Salvadoran people.

Armed Forces, do not fear the enemy. Go forward with your resolve and spirit. Our faith in God and our Christian principles give us the truth and the strength to continue destroying the forces that are trying to wipe out our history, tradition, values, and citizens' principles.

For each officer and soldier lost in the struggle, there is no other mission but to defeat the enemy, to destroy the terrorists' plans, and to once and for all wipe out this maneuver, this attempt to destroy the institutionality of El Salvador.

This is a timely occasion, Salvadoran people, to say that the Armed Forces as an institution at society's service deeply regret and have been dismayed by the incidents at the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University. We condemn, point at, and deeply (?reject) these irrational and violent actions, which are aimed against Salvadoran intellectuals. We, like the Salvadoran people and the international community, also point to, question, and totally reject these actions which only bring mourning and grief and, furthermore—as the terrorist forces have done on other occasions—create confusion, deceit, and further torment the Salvadoran people who have already suffered so much.

The Armed Forces convey their deepest condolences to the national and international Jesuit community, and we are willing—as the government has pointed out—to carry out thorough investigations, so that sooner or later we will find those responsible for this situation and apply to them the punishment they deserve for such irrational, violent actions that only bring grief, tears, and blood to our Salvadoran people.

Salvadoran people, I believe the time has come to further demonstrate our stoicism. I believe this is the time to define, in a true citizen's spirit, our resolve to defeat, our resolve to win. Within a short while, a few hours, or a few days, we will join the Salvadoran people to celebrate the victory of democracy, justice, and peace over the irrational violence unleashed by the FMLN.

This may also be a timely opportunity to point to the terrorist forces that are still trying to hurt our civilian population, to tell them that their cause, the cause of violence, irrationality, and disrespect for the people's will, is lost. To this effect, the Armed Forces are urging the terrorist forces to surrender, to lay down their weapons, to stop the violence, and to join civilian life in society, in peace and harmony, so that we also—as the Armed Forces and as an institution—can respect their lives and incorporate them into society, and so that together—today, tomorrow, and always—we can build a country full of love, well-being, peace, and faith in God.

Opposition Leaders Evacuated to Venezuela

PA1811180289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1654 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guillermo Ungo, vice president of the Socialist International, former presidential candidate, and leader of the civilian left in El Salvador, today left for Venezuela accompanied by Venezuelan Ambassador Federico Malespina, according to diplomatic sources.

Ungo sought asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy 6 days ago to protect himself against the threats issued on the government radio. The leftist leader was accused of being "an accomplice of the massacre caused by the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front)," which a week ago launched the largest offensive in 10 years.

Ungo left El Salvador accompanied by Hector Oqueli Colindres, assistant secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), a member party of the Democratic Convergence, a bloc of leftist parties.

Other diplomats accompanied Ungo to Comalapa Airport, located 50 km south of San Salvador, which is heavily protected by the Army.

Ungo's departure occurred following the assassination of six Jesuits who were machinegunned on 15 November by men wearing military uniforms.

Ungo To Meet With Mitterrand, Gonzalez, Perez

PA1911015789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2327 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guillermo Ungo, vice president of the Socialist International and main leader of the Salvadoran civilian left, will meet with the presidents of Venezuela and France and the prime minister of Spain in the next few days. Ungo left El Salvador today.

Spokesmen of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), whose secretary general is Ungo, told ACAN-EFE that the leftist leader will meet with Carlos Andres Perez, Francois Mitterrand, and Felipe Gonzalez and ask them to work for a cease-fire in El Salvador. Ungo will also ask for the "immediate" resumption of the peace talks between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The government and the guerrillas had been scheduled to hold a third round of negotiations in Caracas on 20 November, but after the assassination of 10 labor leaders the FMLN announced last week it would not attend.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani told ACAN-EFE today that "we will not go to a meeting where the other side is not present."

Ungo left for Panama today after having taken refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy in El Salvador 6 days ago because he was the target of death threats over an official radio network. The Salvadoran Social Democratic leader will also attend a Socialist International meeting in Geneva next week.

An MNR spokesman said Ungo "plans to return to El Salvador in about 10 days."

Meanwhile, MNR Assistant Secretary Hector Oqueli Colindres, who also left El Salvador today, will meet with representatives of the Costa Rican Government in the next few hours to discuss the Salvadoran situation and ask for President Oscar Arias' mediation.

American Armies Commanders Support Government

PA1811041889 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0240 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Conference of Commanders of American Armies on 16 November in Guatemala City]

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people: The Conference of Commanders of American Armies meeting in Guatemala City has issued the following communique: statement of solidarity with El Salvador. Objective: Express our strongest support to the fraternal Republic of El Salvador in this difficult time. Scope: Offer its firm support to the courageous effort of the government, Armed Forces, and the Salvadoran people to preserve peace and the basic principles of liberty and democracy. Whereas:

A. That the fraternal Republic of El Salvador is being harrassed by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] followers who are supported by international communism.

B. That these subversive criminals, showing no respect for civilian and military people, have brought mourning and sorrow to the Salvadoran family.

C. That the Salvadoran Armed Forces have fought this scourge even at the cost of sacrificing the lives of members who are aware of their historic responsibility to their people.

D. That the 18th Conference of Commanders of American Armies has pointed out that our armies must face the threat to disturb the systems of our governments and lives of our peoples.

E. That this conference also pointed out the need to help consolidate and bring stability to the institutions established by each of our countries in their respective constitutions and laws.

Therefore, in keeping with Articles 2 and 6 of the rules of the Conference of Commanders of American Armies, its commanders agree to:

Article 1: Express our support to the fraternal Republic of El Salvador in its courageous effort to preserve the basic principles of democracy in view of the cowardly attack of international terrorism.

Article 2: Express our recognition for the firm actions of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and our fervent hope that the sorrow and mourning that opportunist criminals have unleashed among that fraternal people will disappear and that peace, harmony, and well being will be restored.

Issued in Guatemala City, Republic of Guatemala, 16 November 1989

[Signed] Division General Manuel Antonio Callejas y Callejas, president of the conference; Brigadier General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia, rapporteur; Artillery Colonel Hector Israel Montalban Batres, secretary general and permanent executive secretary. The signatures of all the commanders of American armies follow. [names of commanders not read]

Proceedings Against FMLN Leaders Announced

PA1811024489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0201 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Nov (EFE)—The Salvadoran Attorney General's Office announced today that it will open a judicial process against Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] leaders accused of "rebellion and sedition."

The judicial process will affect Jorge Shafik Handal, Joaquin Villalobos, Roberto Roca, Leonel Gonzalez, and Ferman Cienfuegos, the top five FMLN leaders, who ordered their forces to launch a general military offensive on 11 November, the biggest rebel offensive in the last 10 years of war.

According to official figures, the bloody clashes between the Army and the FMLN have left over 1,000 people dead, including soldiers, guerrillas, and civilians.

Clergymen Claim 'Persecution' by Death Squads

PA2011012889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2332 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran clergymen from the Catholic, Lutheran, and Baptist Churches have claimed that they are being "persecuted" by groups operating in the country in the style of the ultrarightist "death squads."

Medardo Gomez, a Lutheran Church bishop, said today that clergymen are subject to "persecution." He said that members of the police force are "besieging" shelters established by the religious groups to benefit thousands of victims of the fighting.

The Lutheran bishop said that six Germans, four U.S. citizens, a Canadian, and a Spaniard were arrested by the Treasury Police 2 days ago in a church in San Salvador, where the troops were looking for "guerrilla collaborators."

The foreigners were detained after having helped to aid civilians who took refuge in churches in San Salvador after fleeing from the bloody clashes between the military and rebels in the Mejicanos, Cuscatancingo,

Zacamil, Ciudad Delgado, San Jacinto, and Soyapango neighborhoods, located in the northern and northeastern parts of the capital.

Several priests, including Daniel Lopez, a Spaniard, had to evacuate their parishes, which are located in the embattled areas, after the churches were surrounded by soldiers. Lopez had to leave the Santa Maria de los Pobres Church in the La Chacra slum area in eastern San Salvador after it was bombed by the Air Force, according to one of Lopez' assistants, who is also a Spaniard.

Religious sources told the press that members of the Treasury Police assaulted some 50 refugees in the San Roque shelter, located in southern San Salvador, when they were searching for a priest named Cortez.

The religious leaders said that the persecution was stepped up after the start of the guerrilla offensive in the capital, which began on 11 November and so far has left some 1,000 dead, including 6 Jesuit priests who were assassinated.

Rebels Want U.S. to Withdraw Pilots

PA1911005789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0011 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] We urge the U.S. Government to immediately withdraw from the Ilopango Air Base the U.S. pilots who are here to participate in air bombings during the night to relieve the tired and genocidal pilots of General Juan Rafael Bustillo.

We urge the U.S. Embassy to withdraw the U.S. pilots. Otherwise, the next planes and helicopters will be downed with U.S. pilots—like those who have come from a U.S. base in Honduras—on board.

Rebel Radio Scorns U.S. Government Intrigues

PA1811211489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1405 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The North Americans are a funny lot. They are always.... [changes thought] they are now giving statements that seem to have been taken from a manual on how to give statements at a given moment. That is why we hear the trite pre-intervention argument that measures will be adopted to save the lives of North Americans living in this or that country. We all know that these statements are the prelude to a U.S. intervention.

The U.S. Government is always sending military aid, advisers, and weapons to the regime. It is always involved in conflicts through the participation of its military and political advisers. The U.S. Ambassador's involvement in the aid sent to a nation is enormous. It surpasses the involvement of, let us say, the Venezuelan, Brazilian, and Spanish ambassadors in the country's internal affairs. The U.S. Ambassador's involvement is sometimes more than that of the president of the republic—Cristiani in this case. We have seen [U.S. Ambassador William] Walker giving war reports, passing judgments—even issuing instructions. The United States is the one who gives the money, sends the advisers, and provides the supplies for the Armed Forces and security corps.

Whenever something happens, for example the assassination of the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] members and the Jesuit priests, the U.S. officials pretend they are surprised, afraid—they even condemn these actions. William Walker has even stated: I do not know what animals perpetrated this crime. The U.S. Government claims it is considering the possibility of cutting its aid, and the discussions could last months, but it always ends by sending more military aid. The U.S. officials' looks of surprise are incredible and we ask ourselves: Are they really surprised? Are they sincere? Or, as a politician once said, do they really think what they say? Do they say what they are thinking? One never knows for sure with the North Americans.

Radio Venceremos has the following commentary on this:

When George Bush came to the U.S. Government everyone thought he would carry out a more realistic policy in Central America, but facts have proved otherwise. His anticommunist obsession has led the United States to become involved with the most dastardly and the most anachronistic groups in the country. The U.S. Government has even become involved with the death squads, the specter it has used right and left to its advantage—and has hypocritically condemned afterwards.

We said that an anticommunist obsession has led the U.S. Government to this, because its own national security doctrine has no reason to exist now that there is detente between the super powers. The Soviet Union is not interested in using regional conflicts to cause a confrontation. The U.S. Government's absolute disdain for the lives of human beings whom it considers fourth-category citizens has led to the unleashing—without pity—of indiscriminate bombings.

A fascist ideology has infiltrated the White House, and no one should be surprised, because it coincides with the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] ideology. The U.S. Government has acknowledged the bombings after cynically saying it knew nothing about them. However, that acknowledgement is even more hair-raising than the denial. Hear us well: The U.S. Government has stated that it supports the government troops' efforts to crush the offensive that has caused so many personal tragedies, and it praised the Army for decreeing strict laws to prevent civilian casualties.

We also hear the pet expression that the FMLN is using civilians to protect its fighters, and the principle of

removing the people from their environment is unscrupulously applied once more. This is why the northern part of the country was destroyed, leaving entire towns in ruins—and now large areas of the country's most important cities are being destroyed. One day those ruins will become the evidence we will show our children to prove that fascism once existed in the country. However, the U.S. imperialism's clumsiness goes even further. The North Americans apparently want to become involved in a large-scale conflict—for the sake of a few death squad members who have already earned the world's scorn—given the decision to send U.S. pilots to bomb the civilian population by night. The fascist Salvadoran dictatorship has unleashed the brutal tactics used by Somoza before leaving power. On that occasion U.S. imperialism turned its back on the tyrant.

The United States' foreign policy has never stooped so low, and the decisions adopted by the U.S. Government have never brought the possibility of a regional conflict so close. What does the Nicaraguan Government think about the airplanes being flown by U.S. pilots only a few hundred kilometers from its border? What will happen if Guatemala continues to involve itself in the Salvadoran conflict? The consequences are unforeseeable. The U.S. imperialism has soiled its hands with a new genocide in El Salvador. The U.S. people should reflect deeply about this and stop their government from provoking contempt of that nation—which is being disinformed and intoxicated by the anticommunist propaganda.

Large groups of Abraham Lincoln's people, the best sons of the United States, have reacted and have taken to the streets—deep inside U.S. imperialism's heart. Soon, very soon, this will become an unstoppable surge. The U.S. Government's strategic goal is clear: the Salvadoran people. The U.S. Government wants the Salvadoran people to [words indistinct]. To quote Monsignor [Oscar Arnulfo] Romero, the Army—and in this case the North Americans—are like serpents, which only bite the shoeless. Yet they do not know that the people have risen in anger and dignity, and they are coming to (?pull out the fascist serpent's fangs).

Rebels Claim Priests, U.S. Citizen Arrested

PA1711160789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1530 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] We are in contact with San Salvador, and we are receiving more reports on the persecution unleashed against the religious groups in San Salvador.

We remind you that a few weeks ago Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes and Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano launched a campaign against the Lutheran and other churches throughout El Salvador. Now this campaign, orchestrated by Col Elena Fuentes, chief of the 1st Infantry Brigade's death squads, has heightened. Not only have Jesuit priests been murdered, but this morning the National Guard arrested two priests and several missionaries, including a U.S. citizen. We repeat: Two priests and several missionaries have been arrested including a U.S. citizen. These people were arrested by the National Guard. We call on all the [word indistinct] around the world; we call on all the Latin American religious sectors to mobilize. Two priests and several missionaries were arrested this morning by the National Guard in San Salvador. Among the arrested persons is a U.S. citizen.

Radio Venceremos is in contact with San Salvador to gather more detailed information regarding the whereabouts of the two priests and several missionaries, including a U.S. citizen, who were arrested.

The persecution against the church continues by ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduates of the Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] military clique. Radio Venceremos calls on all the international community, especially the Catholic universities around the world, the Latin American community, to mobilize, occupy Salvadoran embassies, demonstrate in front of Salvadoran embassies around the world and demand the release of the priests who were arrested this morning by the National Guard. [Words indistinct] 1 minute for the religious community around the world to speak out and mobilize to pressure President Cristiani. This could save the lives of the persons arrested this morning by the National Guard, a bloodthirsty guard that is reliving the last days of the Somozist Guard. The killing of priests and now the arrest of two priests and several missionaries further confirms that the regime is on the verge of collapsing, that it is desperate and no longer cares about the international community, pressure, or requests for an end to the bombings and bloodshed. This morning's response has been the arrest of two priests and several missionaries.

FMLN Reports Refugees Returning From Honduras

PA1911022189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0020 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] We urge humanitarian organizations to pay close attention to this report.

At 0730 today the repatriation of the refugees in Colomoncagua, Honduras began. We repeat, today at 0730, more than 1,000 Salvadoran refugees began marching from Colomoncagua toward the area of Meanguera in this department of Morazan, where they will settle to rebuild their houses and lives.

The group of more than 1,000 Salvadoran refugees is made up of children, elderly people, and women who are carrying their few belongings, food, and domestic animals. We understand that they are accompanied by many journalists and representatives from U.S. and Canadian churches.

The report states that at 0830 the refugees went around Colomoncagua because a lieutenant of the Honduran Armed Froces did not allow them to pass through the town. Nevertheless, thousands of Hondurans went to the

outskirts of Colomoncagua to wave their handkerchiefs and hands in good-byes to the hundreds of Salvadorans who are returning to Morazan Department today.

We urge the press and humanitarian organizations to pay attention [words indistinct] as we have been informed that Colonel Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, [words indistinct] to stop the movement of refugees in Colomoncagua. However, those attempts failed. We have learned that at 0830 hundreds of refugees were already passing near Colomoncagua.

We understand that the General Staff has ordered the deployment of troops of Military Detachment No 4 to stop the refugees; in other words, to prevent their settlement in Meanguera, under the pretext that some of them may not have documents.

Therefore, we hold the General Staff and Colonel Figueroa responsible for any situation affecting these hundreds of Salvadoran refugees who today are returning to our liberated territory, to the free territories in Morazan.

Radio Venceremos knows that at this time in their long journey, our brothers, elderly people, children, and women are listening to our station. We want to tell them: Welcome, repatriated brothers! A hearty welcome from rebellious Morazan, from this, our liberated Morazan! Welcome to this land, which is yours! You have earned this right!

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0117 GMT, in a similar report, states that "the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in San Jose, Costa Rica, has reported that some 1,000 Salvadoran refugees today left Honduras to return to their country on their own," and further notes that "it had been previously reported in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, that approximately 60 Salvadorans had departed from Colomoncagua today, but that they were heading to Nicaragua instead of El Salvador, in view of the grave incidents in their country during the past week."]

Guatemala

Government Denies Troops Sent to El Salvador

PA1711202189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1926 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government today denied that it sent troops to El Salvador in support of the Salvadoran Government, which has been fiercely fighting the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) for the past 7 days.

Claudia Arenas, spokesperson for Guatemala's Christian Democratic government, told ACAN-EFE today that "troops have not been sent" and that the Guatemalan policy of "active neutrality" regarding the Central American conflict remains "unchanged."

Arenas said the Guatemalan Army has taken measures to protect the border area with El Salvador, but this does not mean that the troops have entered Salvadoran territory.

The FMLN General Command yesterday reported that a "a company of servile troops had arrived in El Salvador from Guatemala as a result of pressure from George Bush's administration for the intervention by regional armies in the Salvadoran war."

Guatemalan Army spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs also said that military troops have not been sent to intervene in the Salvadoran conflict, adding that the Armed Forces respect the government's instructions to maintain "active neutrality."

Arenas also said that Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has not been visited by U.S. Government representatives who, according to the FMLN, are pressing for military intervention in El Salvador.

The government spokesperson said President Cerezo has always expressed his "deep respect for democratic governments which are the result of free and pluralistic elections and for their institutions."

"Therefore, such a proposal could not be made to Cerezo," Arenas stressed.

Cerezo Proposes Early Date for Summit

PA1711201189 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemalan President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, in statements to the press, said that there is an initiative to hold the presidential summit at the beginning of December. He said that this is being considered because of the urgent need to obtain peace in the region, starting with the armed conflict in El Salvador.

Cerezo has three specific proposals to try to find solutions to the crisis in El Salvador. One of them is to halt the clashes, give support to the government, try to save the wounded, carry out humanitarian work, and look at ways to get the dialogue restarted in that country. Another initiative is to call for an early date for the presidential summit. The third proposal is to get the UN's International Commission of Support and Verification to help out with this, not just in demobilizing the contras, but in direct actions to halt any logistical support for the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Guerrillas 'Condemn' Army 'Intervention'

PA1811174489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan guerrilla movement today announced that it will make the government of President Vinicio Cerezo and the Guatemalan Army "pay dearly" for having "intervened" in the Salvadoran conflict.

A communique by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) issued in Costa Rica stressed that 126 elite troops of the Guatemalan Army, known as Kaibiles, are working with Salvadoran soldiers to put an end to the offensive by guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The URNG charge, also presented by the FMLN, has been categorically and repeatedly denied by Guatemalan Government spokeswoman Claudia Arenas.

The rebel communique stated: "We vigorously condemn the intervention of the Guatemalan Army against the glorious Salvadoran people. We will make the Guatemalan Army and Government pay dearly for this aggression."

The note was released shortly after Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani announced the victory of his country's army over the FMLN following fierce fighting that has left approximately 1,000 dead and more than 1,500 wounded in the past 7 days.

In addition, the Guatemalan guerrillas expressed solidarity "with the community of Jesuit priests" and their sorrow because of the killing of six of their members, including Central American University Rector Ignacio Ellacuria and two women, carried out by uniformed men in San Salvador on 16 November.

The URNG declaration is signed by Commanders Rolando Moran, Gaspar Ilom, and Pablo Monsanto.

Honduras

Armed Forces Deny Assisting Salvadoran Army

PA1711184289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1616 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE) Honduran Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez today ruled out that troops from this country will be sent to reinforce the Salvadoran Army, which is facing a bloody guerrilla offensive.

The officer rejected U.S. reports, saying that Honduran troops are deploying toward the border with El Salvador, ready to intervene in the domestic struggle of the neighboring Central American country.

American solidarity groups with the El Salvador people have denounced this alleged mobilization, but Colonel Suarez said that the Honduran Army "has not moved a single additional soldier to the border with El Salvador or Nicaragua."

The military spokesman stressed that on the border with El Salvador there are only "previously programmed" Honduran troops. Quoting border military sources, Suarez said that right now the 417 km-border with El Salvador is "calm."

The Honduran Army has been accused several times of violating Salvadoran territorial sovereignty to attack that country's guerrillas. The last incident took place in the Salvadoran village of Arcatao, according to church sources from both countries; but the Honduran Armed Forces denied this.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas have some of their most important bastions in Chalatenango, Morazan, and La Union Departments, which border Honduras.

Azcona Terms Salvadoran Situation 'Horrendous'

PA1811203189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1807 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo today said that the situation in El Salvador has reached "abominable and horrendous" extremes.

The president cited the killing of the Jesuit priests in San Salvador on 16 November as proof of "the incredible levels of violence reached in the neighboring country."

Azcona said that he is being kept informed about the developments in El Salvador, even speaking with his counterpart, Alfredo Cristiani, but did not volunteer any details about the matters discussed.

Various Honduran political, social, and religious organizations have expressed views similar to those voiced by the president of Honduras, a country that shares a 417-km border with El Salvador.

In a statement released today, the Honduran Episcopal Conference "deplored the sad incidents that resulted in the cold-blooded murder of six Jesuits." The Honduran bishops stressed that "the fratricidal struggle is a bitter result of the injustice that the Salvadoran people have been suffering."

In similar terms, the Christian Democratic Party and the social democratic Innovation and Unity Party, agreed that violence in El Salvador finds its roots in those who do not understand actions in favor of the oppressed and the people's true liberation.

The Honduran Armed Forces have been closely following the Salvadoran military situation, and they also condemned the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Ranking officers, including new military commander Colonel Arnulfo Cantarero, maintained that El Salvador is a victim of "communist aggression."

However, the military officers say that they will remain outside the Salvadoran conflict, which increased when the insurgents began a general offensive a week ago.

Foreign Minister Criticizes OAS Inaction

PA1811225989 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Nov 89 p 7

[Text] Speaking before the 19th OAS General Assembly in Washington, Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said that the OAS' "mission is to help make this a free world. At times, it has acted accordingly," but on occasions, "it seems to have forgotten that one of its main objectives is to promote and consolidate democracy on the continent."

The reluctance with which the OAS has acted on some occasions, Lopez Contreras said, cannot be justified by saying that the organization abides by the principle of nonintervention. This mistaken attitude is the same as ignoring the right of a people to choose their own leaders, to deny the validity of the principle of self-determination.

Lopez Contreras urged the OAS to set aside its attitude and act as it should, as an organization that promotes and guarantees respect for the principles and values of democracy.

Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras' views are opposed to those of President Jose Azcona who has rejected any type of intervention in Latin American countries, like Panama, even though he admits that strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega should remove himself from power.

The president was referring to the U.S. Administration's proposal to act in countries where dictatorships prevail and restore democracy. Azcona stressed that no democratic country on the continent would approve an intervention of this nature.

Lopez Contreras said: "I am pleased to say that 10 days from now, and for the third time this decade, the Honduran people will vote to choose their president and other national and local authorities in a free and honest election."

Likewise, Lopez Contreras added, on 27 January President Jose Azcona will turn over power to his legitimate and freely elected successor—once again referring to Honduras' solid democratic nature.

The president elect of the 19th OAS General Assembly also talked about the fact that never before had the phenomenon of illegal drug production shown itself so crudely as today.

The Honduran foreign minister said that the alarming alliance between traffickers and terrorists murders authorities and even endangers the stability of legally constituted governments, yet the drug cartels go so far as to propose a "dialogue that will guarantee their impunity."

Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras also said that paying the foreign debt will be very difficult if the current situation prevails. He said that it is necessary for the creditors and debtors to reach an agreement to find forumulas that will promote the development of the debtor countries, an indispensable condition for the payment of the debt and the political and social stability of the region.

Lopez Contreras stressed: "The solution to this problem, which we cannot continue to put off, will not be possible as long as some international organizations continue bent on imposing requirements that can only be met by risking serious social unrest."

In this sense, Lopez Contreras added, we must point out that the private international banks have adopted more flexible positions than certain international organizations.

My country is willing to honor its obligations as it has always done, Lopez Contreras stressed, however, to do this we need the facilities to which we feel we are justly entitled; we cannot continue to do what we have been doing, exporting capital.

Lopez Contreras stressed that one of the most painful and visible consequences of the Central American crisis has been the enormous wave of refugees and displaced people. Approximately 2 million Central Americans have left their places of origin to live in neighboring countries, or have left the region altogether.

He added that "my government hopes that the implementation of the Esquipulas Agreements will make it possible to create the necessary conditions to facilitate the return of refugees to their respective countries."

Lopez Contreras noted that ever since the Central American crisis had become part of the international agenda at the beginning of this decade, the Honduran Government has advocated a negotiated solution.

In that regard, he recalled that in March 1982 Honduras presented a proposal to the OAS Permanent Council. The proposed topics were included in the negotiations promoted since 1983 by the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group.

Lopez Contreras expressed "his government's satisfaction with the extraordinary OAS contributions toward peace and security in Central America."

Concerning this, he noted the valuable OAS efforts toward the normalization process in Central America through the persons of Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Assistant Secretary General Val McCome, as well as other members of the organization.

Lopez Contreras stressed the need to continue encouraging countries outside the region to help achieve the objectives of the Esquipulas process.

He added: "I would also like to express my government's firm determination to continue contributing to the peace process through faithful compliance with the commitments acquired through the Esquipulas II agreements."

"We have received and supported the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] reconnaissance mission, as well as three visits by members of the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] to Honduras," Lopez Contreras said.

Therefore, he stressed, we hope that the efforts conducted by the Nicaraguans themselves toward their national reconciliation will mean the return of peace in that sister nation. This would effectively contribute to end the crisis in that country, he said, which for a long time has inhibited Central America's development.

Nicaragua

Managua Reports Resumption of Contra Talks

PA1711143489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1204 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Washington—The contras yesterday returned to negotiations for their demobilization, although they still maintain the same inflexible position, which makes it difficult to reach an agreement. Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo also returned to OAS headquarters, site of the conversations, upon instructions from the Holy See—even though he had other commitments—he explained.

Vice Foreign Minister Victory Hugo Tinoco has said he is pleased with the contras' decision to continue the dialogue, because this is the way to achieve the demobilization stipulated in the Tela agreements.

Alvaro de Soto, UN representative in the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] who is also participating in the meeting, said that progress has been achieved—though little, it is progress after all—to define the contras' demobilization.

Ortega on Talks

PA1811233889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Nov 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega warned last night that if the contras do not agree to demobilize and dismantle, he will get in touch with the Central American presidents to inform them that the mercenaries do not agree to abide by the Tela agreements and that the Nicaraguan revolution will therefore attain peace any way possible.

President Ortega said: "If they do not willingly agree to a solution, we will attain peace in any way possible, and both the contras inside (UNO) [National Opposition Unity] and the contras outside should be aware of that."

Last night, Daniel Ortega arrived in Dolores Municipality, becoming the first Nicaraguan president to have ever visited there.

The people of Dolores, located between Diriamba and Jinotepe, wore their best clothes for the memorable occasion. Waving their red and black flags, over 2,000 people for over 4 hours waited at the entrance of the town for the arrival of the Sandinist candidate. When the motorcade arrived in Dolores, the crowd ran to greet and embrace Daniel Ortega.

Sergio Garcia, who is running for the post of mayor for the Sandinist Front, said: "We are in a festive mood today because the favorite son of the homeland is here in Dolores. This is the first time in the history of our municipality that we are visited by a president, and we are happy that Daniel is the one visiting us." Out of the 4,500 inhabitants in Dolores Municipality, 2,000 welcomed and listened to him.

Edgardo Bermudez, who is running for the post of councilman for the Sandinist Front, told BARRICADA that no other president had ever visited Dolores, not because of geographical problems, but rather for political reasons. "They never visited our municipality because it was a small and poor town. The previous Nicaraguan presidents passed through Dolores on their way to Jinotepe where they met with the city's moneybags."

Bermudez added: "Daniel is a president of the people, and that is why he is here with us." In Bermudez' opinion, thanks to the revolution Dolores became part of the country's political geography and acquired the right to choose its municipal authorities and to administer its own resources and budget.

According to elderly Victor Chavarria, 76, Dolores was only a forgotten hamlet with unpaved streets, and when it rained there was mud all over instead of streets. But now over 70 percent of the streets have been paved. The old man said: "We have never had a president like Daniel before, who is so concerned about his people."

Chavarria told BARRICADA that before becoming president Rene Schick visited Dolores and promised to fix the streets and to build the town's square. However, the only thing he did was to plant an Indian laurel tree and throw some sand on the streets. Somoza's puppet never showed up in Dolores again.

While touring the streets of Dolores, Daniel Ortega received many expressions of affection and appreciation from the town's residents.

Adults took their children or grandchildren and showed them to Daniel, who held them for a few minutes. In a very easygoing tone, the Sandinist candidate exchanged views with various residents. Commander William Ramirez, Region 6 candidate, said: "It is easy to see that the people love Daniel because of his determination to work and his wish to communicate with them."

Before over 2,000 residents Daniel Ortega announced that the talks with the contras in the United States will resume next Monday, 20 November, and that these talks should lead to specific agreements in favor of peace in Nicaragua. As for the Salvadoran conflict, Commander Ortega revealed that he is making efforts to get an OAS

commission to be sent to El Salvador to promote a cease-fire, and then for all the parties involved to resume talks.

Obando y Bravo on Talks

PA1811203989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1849 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is participating in the talks between the Nicaraguan Government and the contra leadership in the United States, arrived in the country this morning and made some important statements to the local media.

First, he vigorously condemned the assassination of the six priests in El Salvador on 16 November. Paramilitary groups of the Salvadoran Government killed the priests within the framework of a guerrilla offensive that began last week.

Obando also disclosed certain aspects of the negotiations between the Nicaraguan Government and the contra leaders. He said that he made some proposals to the two sides, and that they are being discussed. These proposals include a cease-fire and the turning over of the majority of the people kidnapped by the contras.

[Begin recording] [Obando y Bravo] In New York, the talks are at a standstill because the Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, wants a cease-fire. The government does, too, but it is linking it to the implementation of dates for the contra demobilization.

[Reporter] You made four recommendations.

[Obando y Bravo] My first recommendation is that both sides must begin a cease fire. It must be a bilateral cease-fire. As a Nicaraguan, a pastor, and the president of the Reconciliation Commission, I am worried that the blood of my brothers will be shed. For this reason, I proposed a cease-fire, then an amnesty, and then the release of those kidnapped by the RN. After that, I suggested that we set a date to discuss the demobilization. [end recording]

Cardinal Obando also said that there is a possibility that he will not return to the United States to participate in the talks. He said that he left an observer but did not specify who that observer is. He added that this observer will inform him about the progress of the talks. Obando said that if it is not necessary for him to return to the talks, he will not do so. However, he left open the possibility of continuing as mediator in the talks between the government and the counterrevolutionaries.

Ortega Says Opposition Leader Promoting War

PA1911014389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2357 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said—without mentioning the name of Alfredo Cesar, the former contra leader—that he should be tried for opposing the demobilization of the anti-Sandinists.

In a speech delivered today in Santo Tomas, Chontales, in middle Nicaragua, Ortega lashed out against the opposition leader, accusing him of "promoting war" in this Central American country.

Alfredo Cesar, who was dismissed 2 days ago from the campaign committee of the opposition presidential candidate, Violeta Chamorro, said in a news conference Friday that in Nicaragua there are no conditions for the "full return" of the contras to civilian life.

The former rebel leader based his statements on the Managua government's alleged refusal to grant passports to four members of the armed resistance.

The Nicaraguan president said that "this guy," in reference to Alfredo Cesar, should be "tried" for promoting war and for preventing peace being reached in this Central American country.

Alfredo Cesar is accused of sending a letter to Enrique Bermudez, the military leader of the rebels, in which he asks Bermudez not to sign any agreement with the Sandinists to demobilize the contras.

According to the letter, which he considers "apocryphal," Cesar says the rebels are the only guarantee that the Sandinists will conduct free and honest elections.

"I would like to see this guy at the war front, because he has never been there," Ortega said angrily because of the words spoken by Cesar, a "protege" of Violeta Chamorro.

Ortega said that the former contra leader does not know anything about war and suffering in the mountains, because "he has lived safely in Miami and Costa Rica."

Ortega Condemns Jesuits' Assassination

PA1711144189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1207 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega, Vice President Sergio Ramirez, and other government officials have attended the funeral mass [for the Jesuit priests slain in El Salvador]. Ortega gave a statement following the mass, harshly criticizing the Salvadoran and U.S. governments.

[Begin Ortega recording] This is nothing new. It is clear that the Salvadoran Government....[corrects himself] that the U.S. Government continues to support a criminal regime, a murderous regime which assassinates the people and their religious leaders. [end recording]

Interior Minister Views Cease-Fire, Salvador

PA1611174989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1406 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Madrid, 16 Nov (EFE)—Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge said today in Madrid that when the decision was adopted to suspend the cease-fire with the contras "our objective, deactivating the war, was achieved."

"The enemy's tactical possibilities have diminished," he said, but abstained from commenting on the suspension of the talks with the contras in Washington.

Borge is in the Spanish capital to attend the funeral of Spanish Communist Party (PCE) President Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionaria," whose "immortality" he underscored.

After rendering homage to the Spanish Communist leader and greeting her relatives, the Sandinist politician left the PCE headquarters, where some people said good-bye to him with applause and shouts of "long live the revolution; they shall not pass."

Borge told newsmen that "as long as the decision is maintained, with the U.S. Government's support, to continue infiltrating counterrevolutionaries—1,000 have already been infiltrated according to an admission by a U.S. State Department official—normal life will be impossible in his country, which has an electoral process that will culminate in February 1990." [quotation marks as received]

Borge stressed, however, that "the electoral process will be carried out with or without bullets, under any circumstances."

Regarding the request that Violeta Chamorro will make today in Madrid to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to send observers for the elections in Nicaragua, he pointed out that "we support the Spanish Government's presence in the electoral process."

He added that "we advocate reminding the candidate of the Bush administration that one has to come out in favor of an end to the war and demobilization, something she has not done at any time."

Regarding an alleged surge in Chamorro's popularity, Borge answered that "it is said there are big lies, small lies, and polls; hence, the polls may be manipulated, and they generally are for political purposes." Borge stressed that "we have serious polls that reflect an overwhelming support for the Sandinist Front."

However, he declined to indicate if the Sandinists would be prepared to establish a coalition government if this turned out to be necessary because of the election results.

Regarding the U.S. Government's charges of complicity with the Salvadoran guerrillas, Borge asserted that "they have never proved them, despite all their information machinery." He added ironically: "We have also been waiting to be blamed for the spread of AIDS, for the quake in San Francisco, or for the tornadoes in Alabama."

Regarding the situation in El Salvador, the official said that "what worries us the most are the bombings by the government." He added that "all of mankind should protest the current government's savage and wanton crime against innocent people."

He stressed that the United States has said it will not intervene in El Salvador for the time being. "They are capable of committing the most savage crimes to maintain their hegemonistic policy on the American continent," he remarked.

Borge described the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the crumbling of the Berlin Wall as "a dust storm compared to the deafening crumbling of the wall separating the North from the South, the exploiting countries from the exploited countries." He added: "During the next decade, the world will see many more deafening collapses than that of the Berlin Wall."

The Sandinist politician recommended to Communists throughout the world that, following Ibarruri's death, they seize the occasion and make the revolutionary world "put on its best clothes and shed the gray clothing with which it has been adorning its mechanisms and bureaucracy."

Alfredo Cesar Says Dismissal 'Political Error'

PA1811024889 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2327 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on his removal from the UNO [National Opposition Union] campaign committee, Alfredo Cesar has said that this is a political error. This morning, Alfredo Cesar, Social Democratic Party secretary general, said that the UNO political council decision to remove him from the UNO campaign committee is an error. Cesar—accompanied by Danilo Lacayo Lanza and Manlio Tirado from the International Press Club where he gave statements to the press—said that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has won a battle over the UNO since it's leaders fell into the trap by the FSLN Agitation and Propaganda Department. Let us listen to Alfredo Cesar's statements during the news conference today:

[Begin Cesar recording] I do not think this is a coup because there is no state and no president [words indistinct]. In my opinion, my dismissal and replacement from the 5-member campaign committee is a political error. It is an error, not just because I am involved, but because this is the result of circumstances which include a very strong campaign—which has been waged for over 2 weeks—against me by the Sandinist regime and the FSLN. This campaign particularly tries to link the UNO with the armed resistance.

I believe the fact that we at the UNO have reacted to the Sandinist pressure is a political error. However, this is just a decision within the decisionmaking process by the 14 political parties political council. In other words, there is no room to question whether or not the committee was empowered to make this decision. They were empowered to make this decision. However, I believe this creates an unfortunate situation, as I explained before. Today, it has been me, tomorrow it could be anyone. The FSLN campaign of pressure is just beginning at this time [words indistinct]. We are 3 months away from the elections, and obviously, we cannot and must not react to these pressures. On the contrary, when someone is attacked by the government, we should support him although later on—if we believe that individual is not acting correctly—we decide to remove that individual.

Our political message has not been appreciated. As for the remainder of speculation in this regard, [words indistinct] I honestly do not give much credit to such rumors. Politics is politics, and in all countries there is always some sort of rivalry—within the normal and acceptable parameters. I have very good relations with the leaders of the 14 political parties. We have had some disagreements which is normal within the democratic framework. I respect all of them, and do not believe this is a personal matter. [end recording]

Panama

U.S. Press Cited on Plan To Topple Noriega

PA1711182689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Nov 89 pp 1, C-6

[Text] Washington (AP)—President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle today refused to comment on the report that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is implementing a new covert operation to topple Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

However, Quayle told reporters that the U.S. policy has been "closely coordinated with Congress" and that it consists of the idea that the sooner Noriega leaves power, the better off the Panamanian people will be.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES newspaper, which attributed its report to unidentified sources, said on 16 November that Bush's government has instructed the CIA to carry out a new covert operation to topple Noriega at a cost of $3 million. The newspaper said that the new operation will be carried out with the approval of congressional commissions.

In a brief talk with reporters aboard the Air Force plane that took him to a funeral in Houston, Bush abstained from commenting on the report.

Quayle said "I will not comment on the report," as he prepared to meet with Konstantin Katushev, the Soviet foreign economic relations minister.

When asked if it is proper for the United States to attempt to intervene in an effort aimed at toppling Noriega, Quayle answered:

"It is undoubtely proper for the United States to clearly state its policy that the sooner Noriega leaves power, the better off the Panamanian and Central American people will be. It is in their interest for Noriega to leave power sooner than later," Quayle said.

Asked if the U.S. Government and congress are still coordinating the effort to expell Noriega from power, Quayle answered: "Our policy on Panama and on other issues is very closely coordinated with Congress. This president insists on consultation, and he has gone beyond the normal limits to consult with Congress on this and other issues."

The newspaper reports that the covert operation "is unrestricted," except for an order that prohibits Noriega's assassination, and could imply the intervention of U.S. troops.

"It is an unimpeded effort to try to topple Noriega," a source told the newspaper. "We will attack him with the understanding that there could be a loss of lives, even though efforts will be made not to kill anyone."

The United States has been trying to expell Noriega from power.

"It all boils down to our wanting him alive or dead in the United States," a source told the newspaper. The sources said that the CIA believes that disgruntled officers in the Panama Defense Forces are willing to cooperate to topple Noriega.

The operation's code name is Panama Five, which alludes to past actions against Noriega, and it reflects the renewed determination in this effort by Bush's administration, which was criticized after the thwarted coup d'etat on 3 October organized by dissident officers of the Panamanian army.

Administration officials presented the plan for the operation to the Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees 3 weeks ago, THE TIMES states.

[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's "The Griper" column on 17 November, page 48, states textually: "The U.S. independent and progovernment press have reported the existence of a CIA plan called "Panama Five" to topple Panama Defense Forces chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The destabilization plan will cost approximately $3 million."]

Party Assails Plan

PA1711162489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Nov 89 p 22

[Communique entitled "Public Denouncement" issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) in Panama City on 15 November]

[Text] THE LOS ANGELES TIMES newpaper has published a report which states that the U.S. Government headed by President Bush, with Congress' direct support, has authorized $3 million in expenses for an operation to topple, arrest, or even assassinate General Manuel Antonio Noriega. This covert operation or direct military invasion by the U.S. Army may involve the loss of human lives.

The Democratic Revolutionary Party reports this criminal, destabilizing, and militarily aggressive behavior to the political parties and governments of the world. It is unacceptable for any civilized country to return to primitive behavior in its international relations.

This action by President Bush, reported by the United States' very own press, constitutes another aggression against Panama. The U.S. Government and President Bush will be held responsible for any incident, any degree of destabilization, bloodshed, or loss of lives in incidents, be they covert or military operations.

To conclude, we must take this situation seriously; all of the Torrijist, nationalist, and patriotic forces must declare a state of alert. All the Dignity Battalions, CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], and the Fronts for the Revolution's Defense must declare a state of maximum alert to guarantee the nation's integrity and the safety of the top leader of the Panamanian revolutionary process.

Signed in Panama City on 15 November 1989.
Signed: Carlos Duque
National Executive Committee
Democratic Revolutionary party

Bases Said in Danger

PA1711150989 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Nov 89 p 5

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince entitled: "Panama, Achilles Heel"]

[Text] The Yankee diplomatic incompetence to handle the Panamanian case with international morality and the fact that it has imposed forceful solutions, outside laws and treaties, have turned Panama into an exposive conflict, with fuses spread throughout the capital cities of the Latin American nations, their people, the Third World, and the areas of the most serious conflicts.

Yankee imperialism's offenses against Panama's sovereignty greatly injure the principles of American law and have placed the "OAS" on the verge of collapse because of Bush's tactics, which dismantle the ethical basis of peaceful coexistence among nations.

These practices have made Bush the head of a terrorist government that authorizes and announces the assassination of foreign political leaders. The announcement of a premediated assassination, which has been placed on the calender, has caused an immediate reaction from the civilized world and from nations in conflict with the United States, like Iran and other Moslem countries, which responded with the Islamic law of: an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.

And since attack is the best military defense, the possibility of an attack on the U.S. military power cannot be rejected. In the case of Panama and its canal, we must clarify that the waterway, a Panamanian waterway, would not be in any danger in case of an attack; however, the bases and troops, will be. Remember that an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has just declared Iran's solidarity with Panama's just cause. Understood?

Execution Commando Group Formed

PA1811132989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Nov 89 p 1

[Report headlined: "Stay Alert, Panama! Departure of U.S. Embassy Contacts To Be Kept Under Control. International Commandos Have Been Formed To Maintain Surveillance of U.S. Citizens in Panama"]

[Text] Last night, just before this issue went to press, we were informed that party and independent youth groups have formed commando groups, with international links, and have prepared a plan to react appropriately to the U.S. threats. The plan basically establishes measures to retaliate in kind to any actions taken against the safety of Panamanian leaders, particularly General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The disgusting reports [regarding the possibility of such actions] have been widely rejected. Consequently, our source added, a surveillance network is already being set up, and it will have photographs and the addresses of the agents and collaborators of the U.S. information services that operate on Panamanian territory.

Additionally, the executive branch is expected to issue a communique to denounce the threats of the U.S. "establishment."

Further details on this topic will appear in tomorrow's issue of LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL.

[This story is accompanied by a photograph of the U.S. Embassy, with the caption: "Minutes before this issue went to press, Specialized People's Commando Groups called our office and announced that in the event the U.S. 'establishment' attacks any of the top leaders of the process, and General Noriega in particular, a list already has been prepared of the first 50 Panamanians in the service of the Bush government who will be executed. The Specialized People's Commando Groups told CRITICA that this list will be submitted for publication in the 19 November issue of LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL. An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth!"]

'Collaborator' List To Be Published

PA1911130789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 19 Nov 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] The declaration of state terrorism by the United States against the Panamanian leaders, especially General Manuel Antonio Noriega because of his nationalistic and noninterventionist position, has caused repudiation and surprise at the world level.

In light of the threat, the Panamanian youth have reacted in a patriotic manner and formed commando groups that have declared that "the Panamanian collaborators of the North Americans" will pay with their lives for any attack, by known activists of North American intelligence in Panama, against a national official.

Those Specialized People's Commandos (CPE) have announced that those who are on Washington's payroll will be executed, especially those who sponsor the terrorist actions of the North Americans.

The members of the CPE have said that they have drafted a list with the names of the first 50 traitors who will be executed by cells trained for this. The list, in addition to names, also includes addresses, telephone numbers, places they frequent, and where they can be found at any given time.

The CPE also stressed that in the beginning they had thought of publishing the list of those who will be executed should an attack on Gen Noriega or any other leader in the struggle for National Liberation occur, but instead the list will be made public in a few hours.

They also said that the first task of the CPE has been to extend its surveillance throughout the country, not leaving a single window open for the traitors to escape. "They are under the constant surveillance of the commandos, and we [the CPE] announce to the international community that the traitors will pay for their actions against the homeland and its leaders, with mourning, tears, and death."

They also stressed that the commandos have been forced to act in this manner because the United States and the traitors have openly declared that they will carry out actions aimed at undermining Panama's sovereignty. The CPE considers Panama's sovereignty an example worthy of being imitated by the rest of Latin America because of its categorical rejection of Yankee arrogance.

"The blood of the North Americans and the traitors who lend themselves to the U.S. aggression against Panama will flow," a spokesperson for the CPE said, and also stressed that "there will be no mercy for those who lend themselves to the gringo's game, or for their families."

This newspaper has learned that during these actions, the CPE will comb every single inch of the neighborhoods where the oligarchs live. The aggressors and the traitors will have a taste of their own medicine because not a single inch will go unchecked.

It was also learned that the CPE action will also be aimed against those persons, Panamanians as well as foreigners, who have joined the disinformation campaign against our country.

The North American and international press have already reported that the "establishment" has allotted $3 million for its upcoming covert actions against the Panamanian people. The CPE has said that this money will be used by the traitors to put flowers on the graves of their executed treacherous relatives.

'Leaders' Support Commandos

PA1911154689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 19 Nov 89 p 4-B

[Text] Political and people's power leaders have expressed their support for the international commandos that will keep an eye on the North Americans in Panama, control the departure of the U.S. Embassy contacts in Panama, and apply the code "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

The interviewed leaders not only support the Specialized People's Commandos [CPE], but also have offered to carry out any mission assigned to them because "the issue of slavery or freedom is at stake."

"In light of the threats made by the U.S. 'establishment,' bent on assassinating Panamanian leaders, mainly General Manuel Antonio Noriega, leader of the National Liberation Movement, we are on alert and very willing to defend this cause with our own lives if necessary, but the Panamanians who serve George Bush's interests will die first."

One of the first persons to be interviewed regarding this situation was Victoria Roboll, leader of the western Panama Province, who said that "the Panamanian woman, as a supporter of the national liberation struggle led by Commander Noriega, if necessary, is willing to execute the traitors who attempt any actions which run counter to our objective of turning Panama into a free, sovereign, and independent country."

Meanwhile, Ramon Ashby, president of the National Union of Natural Leaders (UNIDINA), told this newspaper that the Calidonia [Panama City district] community is alert and on the war path to fight back any criminal attempt against the Panamanian leaders who support the national liberation struggle being waged by Gen Noriega. "We have the addresses of several seditious people who will be the first to die if something happens to Gen Noriega or any other nationalist leader."

From Colon Province, Javier Parker, secretary general of the Torrijist Advance Front [Frente de Avanzada Torrijista, FATO] has sent a message expressing his support for the CPE, adding that all the FATO chapters are alert to the movements, entries and departures of high-ranking U.S. Army South officers on the Atlantic side from their homes. These officers have been identified and a list will be sent to the CPE. He has also placed the

organization that he leads under the orders of the CPE so that when action is needed against the threats made by George Bush's government it can be taken.

Likewise, we must stress that the People's Power leaders in Chiriqui Province have made themselves heard through the Honorable Representative Arnoldo Candanedo who said that the Chiriqui Province is in a state of alert in light of any attempt to eliminate or kidnap any leader identified in the struggle for national liberation led by Gen Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces. Candanedo also expressed his support for the CPE.

"If something should happen to one of our leaders, they will have to bury themselves alive with their $3 million. This is not a threat, it is a patriotic stance."

This was said by Raul Gomez, director of the Human Resources Education and Training Institute [IFAHRU] for western Panama Province, before a large gathering of people who attended an event to reject and burn the ill-fated Hay-Buneau Varilla Treaty at the Bolivar Park in Chorrera.

All the money in the world will not make us delay our cause, Gomez stressed during his speech. He added: "Hear us servants of the imperialist master, in this country we are a peace-loving people, but if the CIA tries to hurt our leaders, it will have to massacre a whole country."

"A people whose dignity has been wounded is capable of downing planes and turning over enemy armored personnel carriers," the IFARHU director stressed. The event, marking another anniversary of the signing of the Hay-Buneau Varilla Treaty, was also attended by Major Manuel Sieiro, chief of the 10th Military Zone, and the mayors of the five districts of western Panama Province, representatives, and people in general.

We must also mention that the symbolic burning of the Hay-Buneau Varilla Treaty was carried out by two students from primary schools in the area.

Columnist on Alleged Operation

PA1911192789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 19 Nov 89 p 6-A

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: Code Operation 5; quotation marks as published]

[Text] "The operation has no restrictions" The Los Angeles Times"

The international press has given wide coverage to an item published in the 16 November edition of THE LOS ANGELES TIMES newspaper of California, which reported that "the government of President Bush had instructed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to stage a new covert operation at a cost of $3 million with the purpose of removing General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama Defense Forces commander in chief." The paper added that "the new operation is being carried out with the approval of the Congressional committees."

The U.S. paper report has not been denied by any U.S. Government official, including President Bush or Vice President Quayle. The former limited himself to say that "he will not discuss state secrets, while the latter repeated the Pentagon motto that "Noriega's ouster is the best thing for the Panamanians."

General alarm has been caused worldwide because the leaders of the most powerful nation on earth have adopted a policy of state terrorism and have publicly announced plans to kidnap, arrest, or assassinate an official from another country. Once again this openly demonstrates that "the leaders of the United States stop at nothing, when they want to show the strength of their muscles. A European diplomat who chose to remain anonymous said that "when President Reagan ordered the air raid on Tripoli, Libya, eight of the aircraft that were participating in the mission had specific orders to attack the home of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and to assassinate him. "Al-Qadhdhafi was not there, but his 15-month-old daughter Hana was assassinated." That action may be repeated at any moment in any country against any government leader," international diplomatic sources have stated.

It is known that "the covert operation" has no restrictions and "the possibility of involving U.S. troops and the resulting loss of life has not been dismissed." As it can be seen, the threat is quite clear. They will kill anyone who they find in their path. EVEN IF THEY ARE DRESSED IN WHITE, CARRY WHITE FLAGS OR FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES. People who know the nature of these actions have explained that "once an operation is begun, the order is "to destroy, without hesitation, anything they find in their path since it is impossible to stop to identify the people." The high-rise buildings will be of special attention for the attackers since "the defenders may hide in them."

Then, with bold cynicism, the U.S. official added: WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS THAT WE WANT HIM IN THE UNITED STATES DEAD OR ALIVE."

One can recall the statements by President Nixon when he declared war on Chilean President Salvador Allende: I WANT HIM OUT OF THE CHILEAN PRESIDENCY, DEAD OR ALIVE."

The statements by Carlos Duque, president of the National Executive Committee of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, declaring on behalf of that political organization that "WE HOLD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT BUSH SOLELY RESPONSIBLE BEFORE WORLD OPINION."

Certainly "it is a situation that should be taken seriously," as the document states. One cannot accept STATE TERRORISM AS THE POLICY OF A NATION, REGARDLESS OF HOW POWERFUL IT IS. One cannot accept military aggression, the massive

destruction of the civilian population, of the economy, and of the natural resources just because an evil-minded government leader feels hatred toward a citizen of another country.

The Panamanians, the patriotic Panamanians must understand, we must repeat to no end that NORIEGA IS THE EXCUSE....THE GOAL IS TO TURN PANAMA INTO A COLONY!

Special U.S. Watch Plan Initiated at All Ports

PA1811031789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2359 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] We have learned that a special watch plan has just been implemented at all ports of entry into the country to supervise the entry and departure of all those Panamanians who have any connection with U.S. plans and actions against Panama.

We have also learned that the purpose of this measure is to monitor the traitors who are using their permits to freely enter and leave the country to obtain information which is later delivered to their American bosses.

Incident at Fort Amador Described as Provocative

PA1711173489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2335 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] A regrettable incident, which could have had grave consequences, occurred in Fort Amador this morning when U.S. soldiers again flaunted their might and disrespect. The U.S. Army's arrogance and unnecessary show of force became evident again in the area of military coordination in Fort Amador around noon today.

It was an accidental incident that occurred when a U.S. soldier dressed in civilian clothes parked his rented car in front of building 47 where the Commander's Operations Center, COC, of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] operates. This building is located in an area under FDP control.

However, this was an incident to show U.S. muscle just because an FDP sergeant who was on duty at the COC asked the soldier to move his vehicle, a request the soldier ignored.

U.S. Army troops surrounded the area immediately, supported by vehicles that blocked traffic.

A female U.S. liaison officer who went to the site of the incident said that the U.S. forces had to act because the Panamanian sergeant had threatened to shoot at the vehicle if the soldier did not move it.

COC Chief Captain Severino Mejia and Captain Moises Cortizo, chief of the Victoriano Lorenzo 5th Military Police Company, rejected this false and conjured accusation by the U.S. officer because the Panamanian sergeant could not have threatened the U.S. soldier as the Panamanian does not speak English, and the other man does not understand any Spanish.

The reason of the Panamanian officers, who claim their right in the area of military coordination in Fort Amador, prevailed, finally, when the U.S. troops decided to clear the street and move the venicle that had been parked in the FDP area.

This proves again the false nature of U.S. claims and the provocative attitude of U.S. soldiers on Panamanian soil. This is an attempt to cause an incident and make us lose the calm we have kept for so long, despite provocations and intimidation.

New U.S. 'Aggression' Reported in West Zone

PA1811141089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Panamanian Major Manuel Sieiro, chief of the 10th Military Zone, has informed the community of western Panama Province of the U.S. Armed Forces' intrusion into territory outside their bases on the western banks of the Panama Canal.

The U.S. Armed Forces troops went 6 kms outside their bases, arriving in Bique, Arraijan, thus conducting new aggression in our territory. This afternoon the people of Arraijan, La Chorrera, and neighboring communities rose up to counteract the increasing advance guard of U.S. troops in Panama.

It was learned that for approximately 90 minutes, beginning at 0715, the U.S. troops conducted exercises outside the bases in the white area of Arraijan known as Bique.

To counteract those actions, the organizations of western Panama Province have released a plan called Defense Plan for the National Territory.

We can add that the most recent aggression conducted by U.S. Armed Forces in this sector is handing out candy to students of several elementary schools and high schools in the area. Doctors in the area have confirmed that the candy given to the students contains hallucigenic drugs. The U.S. troops have given out the candy, taking advantage of the naivete of the children who attend the schools located in the western area of Panama Province.

Rodriguez on OAS Resolution, U.S.'Meddling'

PA1711224289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1806 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Francisco Rodriguez today said that elections will be held in Panama "as soon as the U.S. Government stops meddling" in Panama's domestic affairs.

Rodriguez reacted in this manner to the resolution approved last night in Washington by the OAS condemning the "serious" violations of human rights in

Panama and asking for an urgent call for an "authentic democratic process" in that country.

According to Rodriguez, the U.S. meddling in Panama's domestic affairs "makes it difficult—not to say impossible—to hold clean elections in Panama; elections in which the feelings of the people can be expressed without any kind of restrictions."

The 7 May general elections in Panama, in which the opposition claimed victory, were annulled 3 days later and since 1 September Rodriguez has directed a "provisional government."

The government justified the annulment of the elections by saying that the elections had been "distorted" by U.S. intervention.

Rodriguez today told reporters in Panama City that "the one thing we cannot attempt to carry out are elections with a knife held to our throats. This would be illogical, absurd, and irresponsible."

The resolution approved last night by the OAS notes that it is "urgently necessary" that the Panamanian people express their will as soon as possible by means of a democratic process within the framework of necessary guarantees for the full exercise of the right to vote.

The document also states "support and solidarity for the brotherly Panamanian people as well as deep concern over grave violations in Panama of fundamental rights and liberties."

Ambassador to OAS Comments on Resolution

PA1911010989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2317 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 18 Nov (EFE)—The Panamanian delegation said today that they shared the OAS interest in the need to follow a democratic process in the country, which, "by means of free elections and without foreign intervention, may lead to the establishment of a new government" in the country of the canal.

Jose Maria Cabrera, the Panamanian ambassador at the OAS, said at the closing session of the 19th OAS General Assembly that his country has the "official and public commitment" of holding elections, and he said that its fulfillment depends "exclusively on the suspension of the U.S. aggression."

Cabrera also explained that the resolution regarding the situation in Panama, which was approved with two nay votes, those of Panama and Nicaragua, "contains positive elements."

He mentioned, for example, that the document "reaffirms the principles of respect for the free determination of peoples and of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states," and it "calls on all states to refrain from taking unilateral actions that could create obstacles for a fair and negotiated solution."

According to Cabrera, the resolution reiterates the importance that the member states give to the Torrijos-Carter treaties and all of these elements "are clear calls made to the United States to suspend its current aggressive and interventionist policy against Panama."

Cabrera, however, said that this resolution "does not adequately condemn the current U.S. aggression against Panama, which is the only international aspect of the so-called Panamanian crisis and the main obstacle to the country's democratization."

The Panamanian ambassador noted that some of the explicit elements of the document "violate or are not compatible with the OAS Charter," and he announced that, therefore, "it reserves the right to follow through or not with this resolution."

Panamanian Opposition Alliance on OAS Meeting

PA1811211689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Nov 89 pp A-1, A-8

[By Juan Carlos Duque, chief of editorial staff of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, after hearing of the resolution on the Panamanian crisis approved by the OAS General Assembly, the Panamanian opposition reacted by saying that it represents an additional measure of support for the "peaceful struggle of the Panamanian people for freedom, justice, and democracy."

The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] said that the draft resolution proposed by the Panamanian Government through its representative "was not even discussed," and stressed that when the resolution was voted on, "only the Nicaraguan Government voted with the Noriega regime."

Represented by Guillermo Endara G., Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, the opposition alliance stated: "It is quite clear that the continuation and worsening of the crisis that is affecting our country is due to a lack of political will on the part of the Panamanian authorities to lead a nation within the parameters of its political constitution and by respecting human rights."

The political opposition stressed that the fact that the OAS has suggested the "urgent need for the Panamanian people to express their will as soon as possible" is compatible with the proposal presented by ADOC. The alliance suggested that a plebiscite be held for the people to choose "the country's future democratic path."

Ozores Says U.S. Can Correct Canal 'Errors'

PA2011021989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Nov 89 p D-12

[Letter dated 8 November sent by Dr Carlos Ozores Typaldos, Panamanian vice president and member of

the Panama Canal Commission (PCC) Board of Directors, to Robert Page, chairman of the PCC Board of Directors]

[Text] Mr Robert Page, chairman of the PCC Board of Directors

Dear Mr Page:
In our note dated 26 October 1989, we called your attention to the dangers and possible repercussions that the nonparticipation of our members on the Board of Directors could entail.

On 31 October 1989, we received a memorandum addressed to the members of the Executive Committee asking them to vote for, against, or abstain from voting on five priority issues for PPC administration. We do not question the validity of making swift decisions on these issues; however, some issues call for more discussion and information. We must avoid establishing a procedure to completely eliminate the responsibility of the PCC Board of Directors.

For example, the Universal Measurement System, which is scheduled to be adopted beginning in 1994 and will be applicable to all vessels transiting the Panama Canal, calls for extensive and detailed information allowing the adoption of the most fair and equitable decision on this important issue. We know that U.S. board members were briefed at length about the system during a meeting in Tampa, Florida on 26 October 1989. Panamanian board members were not allowed to attend, although this right is specified in Article III, No 3, Letter (a) of the Panama Canal Treaties, under the argument that this article had been suspended. With this policy, the Government of the United States of America plans to unilaterally assume the responsibility for the administration and operation of the Panama Canal.

All points on the agenda—except for those proposed by the Panamanian members, which are just as important to the efficient and secure operation of the Panama Canal and include training programs and the increasing participation of Panamanians, as well as programs on canal maintenance and improvement for the next decade—were discussed with PCC officials during that meeting.

It is timely to point out that another issue being dodged in open violation of treaty provisions is that of the appointment of a Panamanian administrator, who should be installed by 1 January 1990. Should the United States of America fail to comply with this treaty provision, it would be promoting the most serious cause of conflict between the two countries and the efficiency of canal operations would be seriously impaired.

As you know, there are a number of general policies that require serious and responsible analysis on the part of U.S. and Panamanian members of the PCC Board of Directors. Thus, we request that an urgent meeting of the Executive Committee be called. By appointment of the Republic of Panama, board member Oyden Ortega and myself are members of that committee.

There is still time to correct the errors committed by the U.S. Government in politicizing issues pertaining to the Board of Directors, but there must be prompt rectification to ensure that the Panama Canal will operate with efficiency and security for the benefit of the merchant marines of all countries, as we pointed out to you in our previous note.

Attentively,
Carlos Ozores T., Member of the Board

Appointed Canal Official Denies Disloyalty

PA1811220389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Nov 89 pp A-1, A-8, A-7

[Text] In a letter sent to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Fernando Manfredo, assistant administrator of the Panama Canal, has confirmed that he will be a pawn in the U.S. violation of the Panama Canal treaties.

Although Manfredo has not been proposed by the Republic of Panama, in the letter he admits that he would accept the post of "administrator in charge" or acting administrator (a post that does not exist and is not anticipated in the treaties) if the "board of directors" (which is controlled by the United States) restores a series of powers to the administrator.

Manfredo's revealing letter corroborates statements this newspaper has published regarding the intentions of the gentleman in question.

Two weeks ago Manfredo was visited by Robert Page, president of the Panama Canal Board of Directors, who offered him the position of "acting administrator," which would allow him to cooperate in the new treaty violation that the United States is planning. The following is the full text of Manfredo's letter.

14 November 1989
Mr Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque
President-Director of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA
Mr Director:

For the past 2 weeks the newspaper you direct has orchestrated an unjustifiable publicity campaign against me, which I cannot allow to continue without making a few corrections.

In LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 November editions, I have been classified as a "ranking Panamanian official on the Panama Canal Commission, who is known as the man of a thousand faces;" it has been published in front page headlines in boldface that "If he accepts the post, Fernando Manfredo would be on the verge of violating the treaties; if he accepts this position Manfredo would be the first Panamanian to violate the canal treaties;" and in the past 2 days editorial notes have stated that Manfredo wants to serve the United States "without considering his Panamanian

ancestry" and that "he will go down in history as the first Panamanian who shamelessly violated the treaties."

I have repeated the aforementioned slander and defamation as further proof of the immoral depth to which our country has been led, and to the fact that nothing can be done about the country's institutional division. It is enough for me to point out this slander and defamation, which cannot affect the transparency of my public and private life, upon which an honest public opinion has never cast doubt. I am not willing to fall into the pit of slander and defamation.

The real problem is not Fernando Manfredo. The designation of a Panamanian canal administrator has come in the midst of a serious international relations crisis which, since 1987, has developed between the U.S. and Panamanian Governments, a crisis which Manfredo has not in any way promoted.

From the first day the canal treaties went into effect (in 1979) until today, the two sides have unleashed a massive series of mutual accusations of treaty violations. Some of these violations are real and very relevant; this is well known to all who are honest enough not to forget the immediate past; most of these violations are of lesser importance.

As assistant canal administrator and as a Panamanian I have often pointed out these violations throughout the past 10 years. Most of all, however, as assistant administrator I have defended Panama's specific interests in every situation, and its right to sovereignty and very efficiently administer the canal.

The profound differences between the Panamanian and U.S. Government have also affected the designation of a Panamanian canal administrator effective as of 1 January, and that controversy is leading to a deadlock. The real fact is that the absence of normal relations between the two countries is hindering a designation in accordance with applicable contractual and legal procedures and guidelines. The deadlock I have alluded to would prevent the unconditional designation of a Panamanian administrator.

Since the canal's administration cannot be without a leader, the United States of America, whose Panama Canal Commission is the U.S. body responsible for the canal's operation, according to the treaties, will be faced with the following dilemma:

1. To designate a U.S. assistant administrator without designating a Panamanian administrator.

2. To not designate either a Panamanian administrator or a U.S. assistant administrator, and adopt a temporary administrative measure in which a Panamanian would act as administrator in charge.

In accordance with the first option, the United States would name an American assistant administrator as established in the treaty and leave the administrator post vacant. Should this situation emerge, that assistant administrator would temporarily occupy the administrator position, in accordance with the Panama Canal Commission's functional organization plan, which states that: "In case of a vacancy in the administrator's office, the deputy administrator will act as administrator until the president names another person as administrator."

In the second case, neither an administrator nor an assistant administrator would be designated, but the current Panamanian assistant administrator's term would be extended, in keeping with the Canal Commission's legal mechanisms.

As anyone can see, we cannot sidestep this problem: there has to be either a U.S. acting administrator or a Panamanian acting administrator. And one does not have to be a genius to determine which of these two options is the best for Panama and the Panamanian people; particularly for the Panamanians who work for the canal.

Personally speaking, if I were to accept the post of acting canal administrator I would be upsetting the plans that I so carefully prepared for when I left canal service (I vacated the deputy administrator's residence in Ancon in May) in exchange for entirely unstable employment as far as the duration of the appointment is concerned. It would entail taking over a very sensitive job in a very complex organization—which was designed to operate as a corporation with two shareholders—at a time when a complicated political situation is clouding the country and affecting the relations between the United States and Panama. All of this is compounded further by the financial problems caused by a considerable drop in canal revenues that is not entirely compensated by the increase in tolls that went into effect on 1 October 1989.

To me—out of respect for myself—the post of Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] lost its current [as received] importance many months ago. Neither the slanderers nor the defamers seem to be aware of this development. An overzealous former chairman of the PCC Board of Directors—to protect the canal from an unqualified or unprofessional Panamanian administrator and to safeguard the PCC executives—managed to get the majority of the U.S. members of the Board of Directors to approve a number of modifications to the Canal's organizational chart and to the authority of the Administrator. These modifications converted the administrator into a purely decorative figure, and invested real authority over very important Canal management functions in a Washington office run by a U.S. citizen. In the organizational chart this individual has a line of authority over all of the PCC's offices and officials that runs parallel with that of the administrator.

This is why I said that the only way I would consider the possibility of temporarily holding the post of acting administrator beginning on 1 January 1990 is if the Board of Directors promised to fully restore the administrator's authority and to modify the organizational chart in such a way that the administrator's authority as

chief executive will not be challenged by another official of the [U.S.] Administration.

I firmly believe that all possible efforts must be made to keep the canal out of the political conflicts between Panama and the United States; to keep up the morale of the workers, especially the Panamanian workers; and to provide the users of the Canal the greatest degree of safety and of peace of mind.

I am aware that the canal is important to Panama and to this and upcoming generations of Panamanians; that the canal is of vital importance for the economy of many Latin American countries; and that, as a result of this, we have to put our personal interests aside and take certain risks if we want to behave like responsible persons.

I am convinced that beginning on 1 January 1990 a Panamanian must hold the post of administrator, even if only temporarily, to protect the interests of Panama, the Canal, and its users.

I hope, Mr. Director, that for the good of the Republic of Panama, you will make this clarification public in the manner it deserves.

Fernando Manfredo, Jr., Deputy Canal Administrator

Paper Attacks Appointment

PA1811221289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Nov 89 p 14

[Text] Referring to the appointment of the Panama Canal Commission administrator, President George Bush will carry out actions that violate Paragraph 3, sections C and D, of Article III on the canal's operations and directorate, as stated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties:

c) The United States of America will employ a U.S. citizen as Panama Canal Commission administrator and a Panamanian citizen as assistant administrator, until 31 December 1989. Effective 1 January 1990, a Panamanian citizen will be appointed to the post of administrator and a U.S. citizen will assume the post of assistant administrator. THESE CITIZENS WILL BE PROPOSED BY THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT TO THESE POSTS BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

d) If the United States removes the Panamanian citizen from his post as assistant administrator or administrator, the Republic of Panama will propose another Panamanian citizen, to be appointed to the post by the United States of America.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS:

Referring to the above, it is convenient to clearly state that the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Panama created, through Law 16 of 27 June 1989, the procedure for the election of the Panamanian who will be proposed for the post of Panama Canal Commission administrator. Article 1 of the law states that "this citizen must be chosen by the Legislative Assembly through a resolution approved by an absolute majority of members."

The Legislative Assembly was democratically elected by the people's vote in 1984-1989, and it was never disowned by the U.S. Government.

The names of seven Panamanian citizens were submitted to the Legislative Assembly's Canal Affairs Commission, as follows: Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, Fernando Manfredo Jr., Cecilio Emilio Simons, Reinaldo Barria Marin, Arnulfo Gaspar Suarez, Arnoldo Cano Arosemena, and Oscar Antonio Navarro Acevedo.

Panamanian citizen Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque got 42 votes in his favor, 13 legislators abstained from voting, and no one voted against him. Nevertheless, the other candidates, including Fernando Manfredo Jr., got no votes.

Even though Mr Manfredo was not proposed by the Republic of Panama, he has told the media that he would accept the post if the United States—a country he wants to serve without taking into consideration his Panamanian background—restores the authority it had taken away from the administrator.

Any dispassionate observer can clearly see that Mr Manfredo wants to be favored by the U.S. Government to assume the post and, after attaining the post, wait for the North Americans' decision. If this is true, then Fernando Manfredo will go down in history as the first Panamanian who brazenly violated the canal treaties.

In addition, press reports indicate that Fernando Manfredo will tour Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia between 20 and 24 November, "where he will meet with important users of the canal in those countries," which is considered a proselytizing effort to seek their support for his appointment.

Trade Delegation Holds Talks in USSR

PA1811001289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2322 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Panamanian servicing of Soviet vessels fishing in the south seas and the possibility of the Soviets using Panamanian shipyards for repairs were among the topics discussed by a Panamanian delegation led by Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez during a visit to the USSR.

The delegation visited the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, Ministry of Fish Industry, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the (Provintord) Group.

The Soviets briefed the Panamanians on the bank's possibilities and plans. The desire to open an air route between Panama and the USSR was also discussed during the talks between the Panamanians and the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry.

More on Trade Visit

PA1911044089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2301 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The possibility that Soviet vessels may use Panamanian shipyards for repair work, the willingness to open air traffic routes between the two countries, and the trading of food products are some of the achievements reached by the official Panamanian delegation that has traveled to the USSR.

The delegation headed by Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez was welcomed by their Moscow counterparts, especially by officials from the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, whose president of the board of directors, Yuriy Moskovskiy, showed interest in these fields.

As for the fishing industry, both sides talked about the service our country could provide to the Soviet merchant fleet, which conducts fishing operations in the southern seas.

Following the talks with the Civil Aviation Ministry, a memorandum was drafted, which will be sent to our country and which will serve as a basis for a cooperation agreement in this regard.

In addition, the Foreign Trade Ministry, which conducts food trading operations, mentioned the possibility of reaching agreements at a future date.

Qadhdhafi Wants To Visit 'As Soon As Possible'

PA1811032689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0001 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] This afternoon, Libyan Leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi sent a message to Panama saying that he would like to travel to our country as soon as possible.

Endara To Be 'Summoned' for Remarks on Noriega

PA1811004189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2358 GMT 17 Nov

[Text] We have just been informed that Guillermo Endara Galimany [former presidential candidate of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] will again be summoned to clarify his remarks that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will leave his post in wooden pajamas. Endara could be arrested if it is proven that his remarks are related to U.S. plans disclosed on 16 November by the U.S. newspaper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES stating that $3 million dollars will be used from CIA funds to recruit traitors who will promote General Noriega's ouster as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Officials Attend Ceremonies, Burn Canal Treaty

PA1911013589

[Editorial Report] Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish at 2259 GMT on 18 November begins broadcasting its regular newscast, including 9 minutes of reports on the commemoration of the 86th anniversary of the signing of the 1903 Panama Canal Treaties.

The first report states that the community of the San Miguelito District, just outside of Panama City, held a ceremony that included the symbolic burning of the 1903 Panama Canal Treaty to show their repudiation of this treaty. The report states that the main San Miguelito District authorities participated in the ceremony, including San Miguelito District Mayor Felipe Cano, Major Daniel Delgado, the commander of the 11th Military Zone, Labor Minister George Fisher, and members of the Dignity Battalions, among others. The Dignity Battalion representatives expressed their support for General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The second report says that the Panamanian Presidential Guard commanded by Major Armando Reyes held a ceremony in repudiation of the 1903 Panama Canal Treaty in the Panama City neighborhood of San Felipe this morning. The report adds that San Felipe residents and presidency ministry officials attended the ceremony. The report concludes by saying that the ceremony included the symbolic burning of the 1903 treaty.

The next report includes filmclips on various rallies held today in Panama City and in several parts of the interior of the country to repudiate the signing of the 1903 Panama Canal Treaty. The report includes filmclips of people marching toward the Ascanio Arosemena Square in Panama City. The crowd is shown shouting anti-U.S. slogans as they pass by U.S. Howard Air Force Base.

The report goes on to say that "thousands of Panamanians," including public employees, students, workers, peasants, and Dignity Battalion members, participated in the main ceremony held at the Ascanio Arosemena Square.

The report includes a recording of part of the statement made by Dignity Battalion Commander Benjamin Colamarco during the ceremony, as follows: "To the aggressors, to those who want to shamelessly interfere in our domestic affairs, to those who are taking measures [words indistinct] of our sovereign struggle, we tell them: We will apply the law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. [Crowd shouts: 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'] Panamanians must resist and advance, and we will be the winners. No one in this country should have any doubts that in this country we do what the Panamanian people want, and not what the White House thinks or wants. We demand respect, the same respect that we have for the other peoples of the world, including the people of the United States. We demand that the U.S. Government have that same respect for us. No more and no less than that."

The last report of the newscast states that at the end of the ceremony at the Ascanio Arosemena Square, Panamanian Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal presided over the symbolic burning of the 1903 Canal Treaty.

PRD Communique on Murder of Salvadoran Priests

PA1811044789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Nov 89 p 10

[Communique issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party Executive Committee in Panama City on 16 November]

[Text] PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Communique

Twenty years after the Latin American Church met in Medellin and decided to work for the needy, death squads in El Salvador have murdered Ignacio Ellacuria, a priest, teacher, and a social fighter, along with seven other priests and faithful. A war that began with the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero is now taking the lives of hundreds of victims who are killed in indiscriminate bombings and attacks on the population.

The crime committed today was sponsored by the same ones who are now planning General Manuel Antonio Noriega's murder. There is only a difference of time and place. Instead of bombing densely populated neighborhoods, these people are resorting to attacks on certain figures and leaders.

Because of the enormous size of the Latin American crisis, it is evident that the church cannot escape the demand that modern times impose on all groups of deciding whether to be on the side of patriotic and libertarian causes or to become accomplices of local and foreign oppressors.

Like Msgr Romero, Father Ellacuria and his companions in martyrdom represent the church born from the homeland that struggles along with the people. Panamanian General Omar Torrijos also decided to work along with the people from inside the Armed Forces. These martyrs deserve the same solidarity they gave to the Latin American cause of national liberation, because they challenged the oligarchy, imperialism, and even the reactionary groups of their own church.

Now, when all the weight of the Latin American crisis and foreign aggression falls on the Salvadoran and Panamanian peoples; now that the Salvadoran people are massively repressed; and now that the government in Washington orders the CIA to attack Gen Noriega, those who struggle in El Salvador and those who patriotically resist are in fact doing so for all of Latin America.

Thus, Ignacio Ellacuria's and his partners' sacrifice, as well as the previous sacrifice of Msgr Romero and that of Gen Noriega, will bear fruits of liberation, justice, and sovereignty.

These fruits will be plentiful and more delicious if all those who have been next to and learned from these people continue struggling with their example in mind. The sacrifice they have made for all of us deserves praise and solidarity. We offer them that praise and solidarity by reaffirming our commitment to work and struggle for the definitive liberation of our own people.

[Signed] Carlos Duque, president
National Executive Committee
Democratic Revolutionary Party
Panama, 16 November 1989

Salvadoran Leftist Leader Ungo Arrives, Comments

PA1811235989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2045 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 18 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—In brief comments upon his arrival in Panama City today, Guillermo Ungo, leader of El Salvador's civilian left, described the Salvadoran Army's counteroffensive as "savage and genocidal."

Ungo will stay in Panama for 2 days before traveling to Geneva, where he will participate in a meeting of the Socialist International on 22-23 November. Ungo is vice president of that organization.

The leftist leader said the situation in El Salvador is still "very unclear because the government has total control over all the media, there is a state of siege, and there is a 24-hour curfew in the area where there is fighting."

Ungo told ACAN-EFE that the Army's actions in the neighborhoods where the most fierce battles have been waged are "savage and genocidal."

Ungo, a former presidential candidate, took refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy in San Salvador during the past 6 days because of threats against him over the official radio network.

The leftist leader was accused of being an "accomplice of the massacre by the FMLN" (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front), which has unleashed its biggest offensive in the last 10 years.

Ungo left El Salvador after the assassination of six Jesuits by individuals wearing military uniforms on 15 November.

Argentina

Menem Denies Cabinet Changes, Views Issues

PY1911235889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1810 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Mendoza, 17 Nov (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem denied that there will be a Cabinet reshuffle on 10 December, and added that it "is just another day on the political calendar." [Before former President Alfonsin resigned before his term had officially ended, 10 December was the date on which power would be transferred and a new Congress sworn in] Regarding persons engaged in dollar speculation, Menem warned: "We are going to strip them of their claws anytime now."

Menem spoke to reporters upon his arrival in Mendoza. In response to a question, the president pointed out that the approach of this particular date "does not mean that we must change the team that is helping reconstruct the country."

Regarding dollar speculators, Menem warned that "we are going to strip them of their claws anytime now" and added, "Out of prudence, we are not publicizing their names. But, in time, we will release the names of the usurers and the speculators, who only think of themselves and ignore the interests of the community."

Menem also referred to the issue of tax evasion, noting that tax evasion in this country "reaches 60 percent," which "is really immoral." Menem said, "Argentines have very bad habits," and added: "Those who dodge taxes are the ones who have the most. Taxes, therefore, will hit them hard."

Menem reiterated that his government is one "of national unity" and that this is why he introduced policies "to benefit the country and not a particular sector." The president added: "Carlos Menem is a president who came to the presidency with no debts to any sector, and who was elected through his and the people's efforts." "My only commitment is to the people and the law," Menem said, adding that he has become the president of "all Argentines, not just a political group."

Menem visited Mendoza to preside over a national Justicialist Party meeting entitled "Peronism Looking to the 21st Century." Menem was greeted at the airport by the governor of Mendoza, and later held a news conference in the airport's VIP room.

"Some people appear to be confused, some of them in good faith and some in bad. But we are doing what Peron always advised: to form a government of national unity. This is the message he bequeathed us after he returned to the country and during the few months of his third presidency."

Menem said that the objective of this afternoon's rally at Plaza de Mayo was to pay homage to the memory of General Domingo Peron and Eva Peron, on the anniversary of Peron's return to Argentina after 18 years of exile and the anniversary of the repatriation of Eva Peron's remains. Menem also recalled that, on 17 November 1946 in Mendoza, General Peron lectured on philosophy "in the company of the well-known philosophers of those days," and that this "is a pleasant memory for all Justicialists."

Menem was asked if the nation should expect widespread ideological changes within the party after the national Justicialist meeting in Mendoza. He answered: "We are changing all the time, but the party's philosophy does not change because it is the truth. What does change is the doctrine through which the philosophical truths are interpreted. The doctrine changes to keep up with current times."

The chief executive also answered questions on foreign policy. On the upcoming elections in Chile, Menem said that "following these elections, regardless of who wins, our relations will become deeper, broader, and more positive. Obviously, there is bound to be better understanding between governments elected by their peoples."

Menem said that the Panama Canal "must be returned to Panama. There are treaties, the Torrijos-Carter accords, and Argentina, within the framework of the Group of Eight and in general, is calling for the signatories of these accords to comply to the letter."

Menem also recalled that, during his recent visit to Costa Rica, he had offered Salvadoran President Cristiani "every assistance to achieve peace and to bring an end to war and the fratricidal clashes in that fraternal nation. This offer represents the Argentine Government's attitude toward the events in El Salvador, which arouse our concern."

Report on Diplomatic Efforts in Japan, at OAS

PY1811143089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Report from Foreign Ministry by Diego Ibarra]

[Text] In Japan, an informal ('GATT) meeting—an extension of the Uruguayan round of talks of this organization—at the Japanese Foreign Ministry ended today.

Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo was there. He reiterated the Argentine position in favor of free trade and against dumping [preceding word in English] and subsidies for agricultural and livestock products.

Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo also warned about the need to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trade system.

Later, after the conclusion of this organization's meeting and during a collective meeting, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo met with Japanese Emperor Akihito and conveyed President Menem's greetings to him and the hope that the emperor will visit Argentina.

Afterward, Cavallo also met with the press and with Japanese businessmen and bankers, including representatives of the Bank of Tokyo.

Cavallo hopes to arrive at Ezeiza International Airport here in Buenos Aires tomorrow afternoon.

Another report deals with the annual OAS meeting that is being held in the United States. Raul Carignano, Foreign Ministry secretary for Latin American affairs, is participating in this meeting. He has met with officials of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB. This meeting was relatively important as far as IDB participation in financing the Parana-Paraguay waterway is concerned.

Secretary Carignano delivered a note addressed to IDB President Enrique Iglesias. The note requests short-term, nonreimbursable technical cooperation to draw up a project to support the decisions that the IDB will make in order to [word indistinct] the governments involved in the program. It also requests a study to finance and promote the projects involving the Parana-Uruguay [as heard] waterway.

Also within the framework of the OAS General Assembly that is now meeting, the Bolivian sea outlet issue was discussed. In this regard, Carignano's opinion is that the Argentine delegation has decided to support a resolution just made in the General Assembly with the same spirit and the same hope, to settle this issue and to promote talks for Bolivia to gain a sea outlet.

The Argentine delegation has permanently supported this point, and, according to the delegation, Carignano also proposed that talks resume and negotiations be held, which is the only way [words indistinct] a solution to the Bolivian sea outlet issue.

Cavallo Returns From Japan, Comments on Issues

PY1911184289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo stated today that Argentine-Japanese trade has "enormous" potential for growth and indicated that if Argentina can reach long-term agreements on its foreign debt with the financial organizations, Japan "will be willing to make huge investments" in Argentina.

Cavallo made these remarks at Ezeiza International Airport upon returning from Japan, where he met with ministers and international banking representatives.

Cavallo explained that if Argentina manages to reach agreements on the foreign debt, "Japan will release a considerable amount of funds to help finance both private and public projects."

As for Argentine-Japanese trade, Cavallo said that it has "enormous" potential for growth, but, for this to happen, "we must be able to maintain the supply and quality of the goods."

Speaking about future contacts with Great Britain, Cavallo announced that "the so-called working group will meet in Montevideo on 4-5 December to discuss ways to avoid incidents and to reestablish trust at the military level."

Cavallo added that "a very large group of British businessmen with the financial support of the British Government" will arrive in Argentina on 26 December and that "another round of diplomatic talks between the two countries will be held in Madrid on 14-15 February as scheduled."

Cavallo concluded by rejecting rumors to the effect that he could be transferred to the economic team, saying that "President Menem has said that he has a good Cabinet, and I believe that this is true. Each Cabinet member is working well where he is."

Tucuman's Bussi Resigns as National Deputy

PY1811113089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0110 GMT

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 17 Nov (NA) — Today retired General Antonio Bussi, leader of the Republican Force Party, announced that he has resigned his seat in the Federal Chamber of Deputies. Bussi was elected on 14 May 1989, and now his seat will be taken over by Fernando Lopez de Zavalia.

In a document that he released to the press today, Bussi explained that his seat will be filled by Lopez de Zavalia, because he prefers to remain in the province "to closely follow the work" of the representatives of his party in the Tucuman Provincial Congress.

In his document, the retired military man states: "In view of the fact that I cannot consult all those people of Tucuman who honored me with their votes, I have decided, in complete agreement with the leadership of my party, to resign as a national deputy. I am fully confident that the person who will replace me will not let me down."

Lopez de Zavalia, who will asume his duties on 10 December, was elected on 5 November as a Constituent Assembly delegate for the Republican Force Party.

Cordoba Province Exports Goods to Soviet Union

PY1811113589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1235 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Cordoba, 18 Nov (TELAM) — On 17 November, Deputy Governor Mario Negri supervised the loading of goods for export to the Soviet Union. This shipment comes within the framework of an agreement that was obtained by a provincial trade mission in September 1988.

This first shipment consists of goods manufactured from oleohydraulic elements [elementos oleohidrolicos] produced by a company on Monte Cristo Road. A shipment was also prepared for Brazil.

In addition to Negri, Foreign Trade Minister Jose Giai, Cordoba Trade Chamber President Victor Mucaria, and Provincial Economy Minister Jorge Caminotti were also present.

Bolivia

President Asks People 'To Sacrifice' for Country

PY1711142089 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Nov 89 p 1

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic yesterday urged all Bolivians to sacrifice for the benefit of the country and to help solve the current problems.

The president then called for national unity. He said that those who are sabotaging the government "are sabotaging the country."

The president criticized the social mobilization being staged with political goals, and he reasserted that the government is working to create jobs for the unemployed, particularly the young people, so that new horizons may be opened to the administration over which he presides.

President Paz Zamora simultaneously dedicated the central station of the DOMSAT [Domestic Satellite] system for telecommunications and to broadcast Bolivian-made television programs to the entire national territory.

The ceremony took place at the Tiwanacu central station in the Pampahasi neighborhood and was attended by ministers of state and members of the diplomatic corps who had been specially invited.

The ceremony was held in the open, at the foot of the new satellite dish that within the next 3 months will link Cobija, Guayaramerin, and Riberalta, among others. President Paz Zamora said that with the modern communication systems that will be set up next year, most of the country will be linked by the most modern telecommunications.

During an impromptu speech made after a heavy rain shower, the president said that this is a great moment for the Bolivian people because now, thanks to the newly established modern system, the entire country will be able to watch national programs—thus preventing the intrusion of foreign television programs on border areas. [passage omitted]

President Paz Zamora mentioned that his speech was being broadcast for the first time to the entire country by national television. He said his message to all miners, peasants, and all Bolivian citizens in general was to strive for the same goal, with the same spirit and for the well-being of the entire country—not only for the achievement of personal objectives. [passage omitted]

Results of 24-Hour Media Union Strike Reported

PY1911011789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0249 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] La Paz, 17 Nov (EFE)—Bolivia was without news today because of a 24-hour strike by the Federation of Bolivian Press Workers (FTPB) to protest the implementation of the state of siege in Bolivia 2 days ago.

Except for state-owned Radio Illimani and the National Television Enterprise, radio and television stations did not broadcast their usual news programs. Instead they carried musical programs, movies, or telephone surveys on the municipal elections scheduled for December.

The only newspapers that appeared were the La Paz conservative morning daily EL DIARIO, the Santa Cruz business daily EL MUNDO, and an issue of [word indistinct] of the Cochabamba newspaper LOS TIEMPOS, which did not include reports from journalists or correspondents.

The FTPB ordered today's strike to press for the release of all workers arrested by the government and to protest the violent raid on the headquarters of the La Paz Press Workers Union by police and military personnel. Three press workers leaders were arrested during the raid.

The state of siege instituted by President Jaime Paz Zamora's administration managed to put an end to a 23-day hunger strike by approximately 3,000 leaders of various unions, who were demanding better salaries for 74,000 urban and rural teachers.

Bolivian Police Chief Felipe Carvajal warned today that his branch will take harsh action against any persons or organizations that try to violate the state of siege, which will be in effect until February 1990.

Brazil

Latest Election Results; Candidates Comment

Collor Remains in Lead

PY2011121089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1143 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We now have the TSE's [Superior Electoral Court] most recent bulletin, indicating that more than 99 percent of the votes have been counted.

We are now going to repeat the names of the top five vote-getters:

Fernando Collor de Mello	20,995,969 votes
Luis Inacio da Silva	11,553,565 votes
Leonel Brizola	11,155,363 votes
Mario Covas	7,763,117 votes
Paulo Maluf	5,972,434 votes

Collor Discusses Alliances

PY1811151089 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Fernando Collor de Mello, presidential candidate for the PRN [National Reconstruction Party], has said that he is against the immediate implementation of a parliamentary system, and that he is going to wait to see who comes in second in the first round of voting before discussing alliances.

In his first statement after the beginning of the vote count of the first round of elections—of which he is the virtual winner—Collor said that he does not agree with the implementation of a parliamentary system now, because it would mean violating the Constitution.

[Collor] "The implementation of a parliamentary system now would, undoubtedly, represent a violation of the constitution, a fraud to the electoral process. Therefore, we fully disagree with this possibility."

Collor admitted the possibility of alliances for the runoff election, as long as his government program is respected.

[Collor] "In the first place, the word negotiate is not contemplated in agreements we may reach in the future or [words indistinct]. As I have already stated, what we need is to reach agreements regarding a same ideal, regarding a consequent, coherent, and concrete proposal for the national reconstruction."

Regarding his opponent in the runoff election, Collor said that it makes no difference whether it is Lula [Luis Inacio da Silva, candidate for the Workers' Party] or Brizola [Leonel Brizola, candidate for the Democratic Workers' Party].

[Collor] "As to whom I prefer, I think it is up to the Brazilian people to decide who will run in the runoff election."

Collor does not believe in the polarization of the rightists and leftists during the runoff election.

[Collor] "The Brazilian people today do not care whether a candidate is rightist, leftist, centrist, tall, short, fat, or thin. The Brazilians want someone who will solve their problems."

According to Collor, talks on possible alliances have not started yet, because of doubts about who will finish second. He noted that talks for alliances will only be initiated once the Superior Electoral Court announces the final results. He said that the same goes for the drawing up of a possible cabinet.

Brizola Views Talks With PT

PY2011010889 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0015 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The third report released today by the Superior Electoral Court [TSE] was heard with considerable tension by the supporters of the Democratic Workers' Party [PDT] who had gathered in front of Brizola's residence in (Itaipa). Lula's lead of 52,697 votes over Brizola caused some despair, but the promise that Brizola was going to speak to the media encouraged the standard-bearers in the crowd to wave their banners once again. Leonel Brizola came to the gates late in the afternoon and was welcomed by a round of applause. He said that the TSE vote count is not over yet:

[Brizola] "This is a provisional vote count. In Argentina there was a three-percent difference between the computerized vote count, like the one that is going on now, and the final vote count, properly documented by the ballots, which we will try to follow closely. "

Brizola also talked about the possibility of an agreement with the Workers Party [PT]:

[Brizola] "I want to say right away that it will be up to them to pave the way for any kind of understanding between us. For example, no one must believe that we will reach any type of agreement without a program. We must have a common program. We will discuss this program. We will study various issues, such as the selection of the vice president, and they will have to facilitate the talks. We will then hold a convention that will make the final decision. Although I will state my personal position on this matter, the party convention will have the final say."

Leonel Brizola is going to travel to Rio de Janeiro today and tomorrow, where he will meet with the PDT executive board to set the date for the special convention, which will take place in 8 or 10 days.

Brizola admitted that the PDT may appeal to the Supreme Federal Court if the TSE fails to count all the votes from all the states.

Murder of Jesuits in El Salvador Condemned

PY1811152489 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] In a note released by the Foreign Ministry, the Brazilian Government states its indignation over the news about the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador.

The Brazilian Government's message appeals to the parties involved in the Salvadoran conflict to promptly resume negotiations following OAS suggestions regarding the search for peace.

Colombia

Two Alleged Narcotics Traffickers Extradited

PA1911033089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0212 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 18 Nov (EFE)—Two more Colombian alleged narcotics traffickers have been extradited to the United States, the Colombian authorities reported today.

Manuel Julian Palma Molina and Robert James Sokolowsky, who are wanted by U.S. courts on charges of money laundering and cocaine trafficking, were those extradited.

This brings to eight the number of Colombians sent to the United States since 18 August, when President Virgilio Barco began a campaign against narcotics traffickers. The authorities reported that the two Colombians were turned over to DEA agents last night, who took them to the United States under strict security measures.

Palma Molina was sent to the United States, even though his lawyer in Colombia insisted it was a case of mistaken identity and presented evidence to that effect before the Justice Ministry.

The Justice Ministry issued a resolution on 10 November stating that "this kind of evidence should be brought up to the judicial authorities of the state issuing the suit."

It was announced that a ninth Colombian, Ricardo de la Cuesta Marquez, will be extradited within the next few days. De la Cuesta Marquez is charged with being the pilot of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, who is considered the top chief of the Medellin Cartel.

Commander Comments on Need for Larger Budget

PA1611203789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1221 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—General Jose Nelson Mejia Henao, Army Commander in Chief, has said that the Army is determined to strike a definite blow against the country's guerrillas, adding that it is ready to launch a final offensive against those groups not adhering to the law. Gen Mejia Henao said that 70 guerrillas have been killed during the last 14 days, and that the Armed Forces are prepared to fight subversion. He thanked the government for the funds provided to the Armed Forces, but said it needs a bigger budget. Gen Mejia Henao said that there are richer countries that can invest more in their Armed Forces; we are poor, but we shall always need more. He added that the Armed Forces are like children, in that they always want more money, and if they get it, then it is marvelous. He stressed that with the current funding, the military forces have been successful in their struggle against subversion and terrorism, and will continue in order to strike a definitive blow against those groups that are outside the law and against the state.

Five Soldiers Die in Ambush in El Cesar

PA1611231289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] It appears that violence is increasing in El Cesar Department. Army of National Liberation and Popular Liberation Army members ambushed a Santander Battalion unit in El Playon Municipality, in southern El Cesar Department, killing five soldiers.

Meanwhile, five peasants who had been kidnapped from a site 90 km from Valledupar—the capital of El Cesar Department—were murdered.

Army Pursues ELN Column in El Playon Area

PA1711165589 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Bucaramanga—Military land and air patrols from the 5th Brigade are pursuing the ELN [Army of National Liberation] column that ambushed an Army convoy in El Playon, Santander, resulting in one civilian, four soldiers, and seven guerrillas dead, and seven soldiers wounded.

General Rafael Padilla Vergara, commander of the 2d Division, announced that the ambush took place in the area known as La Laguna in El Playon, on the road leading to Betania. Padilla said that the explosions did not directly affect the three vehicles, in which approximately 60 soldiers were traveling. The four soldiers and one civilian killed were identified as Sixto Tulio Rangel Jimenez, Carlos Arturo Gonzalez Cordero, Hugo Quezada Cubillos, Omar Navarro Galvis, and Henry Biscano Guerrero.

The wounded soldiers are Sergeant Armando Jaen Granado, Corporal Edgar Eliecer Navarro, and soldiers Jose Murillo Torrado, Edilberto Lobo Galvis, Jose Mena Paez, Elmer Pedraza Martinez, and their civilian driver, Eliseo Sepulveda. The soldiers and civilian wounded in the ambush have been hospitalized at the Bucaramanga clinic.

Six guerrillas were killed in clashes following the ambush and later, during the search operation, yet another guerrilla was killed. During these intense clashes in the mountainous El Playon region, at least 10 insurgents were wounded, but they were carried away by their comrades.

Ecuador

Borja Says Region Seeking Salvadoran Cease-Fire

PA1811035689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Quito, 17 Nov (EFE)—President Rodrigo Borja declared today that his government and others in the region are undertaking efforts to secure a cease-fire in El Salvador.

"We are undertaking diplomatic efforts to secure a cease-fire and possibly engage the sectors in a dialogue to silence the machine guns and to discuss a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict," Borja told newsmen.

Asked how these diplomatic efforts are being carried out, Borja responded, "through people of friendly governments who are talking to both sides, because this is a problem which affects and is a concern to all of us."

The Ecuadoran president did not identify the governments and people engaged in these efforts and did not reveal any additional information on the topic, according to a communique released today by the presidential press secretariat.

Borja's statements came 1 week after fierce fighting broke out between the Salvadoran Army and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Paraguay

Maria Cinthia Prieto Appointed Health Minister

PY1811030989 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Nov 89 p 13

[Text] Today at noon, President General Andres Rodriguez informed the media that he has decided to dismiss Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo, the public health and social welfare minister .

The post was offered to Dr Maria Cinthia Prieto, who accepted it. When reporting this new appointment, President Rodriguez said he appointed her in recognition of Paraguayan women.

This is the first time in Paraguayan history that a woman has been appointed to the Cabinet.

Dr Maria Cinthia Prieto is a former sanitary regions director of the Public Health Ministry. She also worked in the hospital of the Itaipu Binational Entity.

According to Government House reports, the corresponding decree will be signed by President Rodriguez next week.

This is the second time that President Rodriguez has changed a minister since he came to power. The first minister he changed was Defense Minister General Adolfo Samaniego.

Colorado Party Faction Reacts

PY1811030789 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 2240 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] A few minutes ago at the Colorado Party headquarters a meeting ended that had been attended by members of the ANR [Republican National Association] leadership and some party chapter presidents of Asuncion and the country's interior. A spokesman now reads the communique prepared at that meeting:

First: The executive branch has the authority to make appointments and changes of administrative officials, but such actions create concern when they systematically affect a faction of the party.

Second: The replacement of Health Minister Dr Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo, regardless of the cause, is an inopportune measure at this time, when the Colorado people are ready to hold their special convention on 2 December, because this measure can encourage an alien influence intended to bar the party's majority force, the traditionalist faction, whose invincible spirit is today strenghthened more than ever.

Third: We must not lapse into equivocations, because the Paraguayan people must clearly understand that what is at stake here is the consolidation of true democracy in Paraguay.

Fourth: The party's independence and democratization will not yield to attacks, regardless of their methods and origin.

Fifth: The ANR special convention called for on 2 December 1989 is under way, and it will inevitably and necessarily be held, unless divine providence dictates otherwise.

This is a communique to the Paraguayan people signed by the Traditionalist faction of the Colorado Party.

PLRA Senator Rejects Military Accusations

PY2011014289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Nov 9 p 7

[Text] Senator Ludovico Tessada of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] yesterday "categorically rejected" the charges made by General Allende, commander of the 3d Cavalry Division headquartered in Curuguaty. Tessada criticized the general for the rudeness with which he treated congressmen who went to observe the peasant conflicts in that area.

"Allende charged the PLRA with creating problems in the area, and accused PLRA Deputies Celso Velzaquez, Augusto Brun, and Ceferino Villalba of being agitators," Tessada said. The PLRA senator was a member of the Senate committee that went to the conflict area to learn about the situation of the peasants disloged from Curuguaty by Gen Allende's forces. He said that the meeting between the senators and the general "was not very

cordial and sometimes hostile." Tessada also expressed his disagreeme. with the repression of the peasants.

"We do not believe that either squatting or repression can solve the problem of landless peasants. We believe that private property must be respected, as long as it was lawfully acquired. However, human beings are sacred, and the approach employed by the military leadership was not the most suitable one. Repression still prevails. The atmosphere in Curuguaty is one of fear and harassment," Tessada added. He denied that the PLRA is advocating social unrest.

Colorado Party Senator Waldino Lovera, after listening to the PLRA senator and a report by the committee that visited Curuguaty, said that the charges that have been made should be acknowledged and that it must be made clear that "parliamentarians deserve honorable treatment."

The Senate yesterday approved a declaration recommending the establishment of a state secretariat for handling and promoting the development of women's affairs, in keeping with a bill submitted by Senators Carmen de Lara Castro, Marina Aquino de Ortiz, and Rolando Elizeche.

Peru

Salvadoran Embassy in Lima Attacked; No Injuries

PA1911044689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0357 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 18 Nov (EFE)—A group of unidentified persons attacked the Salvadoran Embassy in Lima with explosives tonight, causing property but no personal damage, Salvadoran Ambassador to Peru Roberto Linares has reported.

Before throwing several packages of dynamite, the assailants painted the walls of the diplomatic residence with the words Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, as well as other words refering to the political violence in El Salvador.

Linares, in statements made to EFE, criticized the attack, and after condemning the lack of police protection at the diplomatic office, said it is the first act of violence he has suffered in Lima.

The diplomatic residence is located in the San Borja District, east of the Peruvian capital.

The Peruvian police did not comment on the incident, which took place shortly after 2100 local time (0300 GMT on 19 Nov). No terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Exports to USSR To Increase by $160 Million

PY1811172489 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] This year Peru will increase its nontraditional exports to the Soviet Union by approximately $160 million using the counterbalanced trade system.

This was announced by Carlos Muniz, commercial attache to the Peruvian Embassy in the Soviet Union. He added that clothes, zinc disks, glazed tiles, and dairy products will be among the products to be exported.

Muniz made these remarks during a roundtable on the prospects of foreign trade between Peru and the Soviet Union. The roundtable, held in our auditorium, was attended by outstanding persons involved in the export sector.

(Vyacheslav Popov), a representative of the Soviet enterprises that are participating in the 18th Pacific International Fair, has noted that bilateral relations in the area of counterbalanced trade are well advanced, because Peruvian products enjoy broad acceptance in the difficult Soviet market.

For his part, (Vakhov Soviyev), director of the Tajikstan Chamber of Commerce, [title as heard] has said that his Republic will play an important role in exporting subtropical agricultural products that are typical of this area in the southern Soviet Union to Peru. Therefore, a broad spectrum of resources from this area, such as cotton, fruit, and coffee, will be exhibited for the public at (?Agropec) 89, a fair held in conjunction with the 18th Pacific International Fair.

(Andrey Malinun), Soviet commercial representative to the 18th Pacific International Fair, has announced that Soviet automobiles will also be on exhibit. He said that his country will exhibit the latest developments in tools, textile equipment, and computer systems.

Currently, the Soviet Union is making an effort to increase its foreign trade with Latin American nations, especially with Peru, which, at this moment, is the main country in Latin America exporting to the socialist countries.

Government Orders 'Substantial' Salary Increases

PY1811200389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT

[Text] The government has decreed a substantial salary increase retroactive to 1 November 1989. The increase applies to public servants, nonunionized private sector workers, and workers not covered under any collective bargaining system.

The legal minimum income and the minimum salary were also increased. The annual indemnization for time of service has also been increased to 1 million intis.

Salary increase	Before	Now	Increase (%)
minimum salary	260,000intis	310,000intis	23.3
day's wage	8,650intis	10,600intis	25
legal minimum income	75,000intis	100,000intis	
indemnization for	750,000intis	1,000,000intis	25
1 year of service			

A special 22-percent bonus has been approved for workers who are not covered under any collective bargaining system and for [word indistinct].

Election Board Cancels Fines for Nonvoters

PY1911211289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] By a majority decision, the National Election Board has decided that citizens who were unable to vote on 12 November will no longer have to have the excused seal stamped on their voting document, and that they are no longer obligated to pay a fine. This resolution was adopted in keeping with electoral regulation laws and the administrative simplification law.

Terrorists Kidnap Italian Clergyman, Three Nuns

PY1911213789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0410 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Huaraz, 18 Nov (EFE)—The Peruvian police reported today that on 17 November a group of alleged terrorists kidnapped a clergyman and three nuns, all of them Italian, in Masin District in the Andean Province of Huaraz, 410 km northwest of Lima.

The police reported that the religious members belong to the Huari prelacy, Masin jurisdiction, under Bishop Dante Frasnelli Tarter, also an Italian. The police did not give the names of the kidnapped persons.

Ancash Prefect (political authority) Domingo Huaman said that the rebels plan to exchange the clergyman and nuns for regional civilian authorities and some National Police officers.

"So far we have only heard the kidnappers' demands, but we do not know about the condition of the religious members," Huaman said.

The Ancash prefect added that the plans of the terrorists—presumably members of the Maoist Shining Path—were made known on 17 November after a mayor-elect and three councilmen of the same political party were murdered in the neighboring district of Ucos. Mayor Rosario Gomez Ortiz and the three councilmen were members of the rightist Democratic Front coalition (FREDEMO). Gomez had been elected in the 12 November municipal elections.

Spokesmen from the episcopal council in Lima declined to comment on the kidnapping of the Italian religious members "until hearing an official report from Bishop Dante Frasnelli."

Clergyman, Nuns Escape Unharmed

PY2011023889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Huaraz, 19 Nov (EFE)—One Italian priest and two Peruvian nuns, who were kidnapped by the Shining Path in Masin on 17 November, were released unharmed today, according to official sources.

Domingo Huaman, prefect (civilian governor) of Ancash Department, north of Lima, reported today that Priest Hugo Dante and the nuns, whose names he did not provide, escaped in a vehicle that the Shining Path terrorists left them when they were discovered by two police helicopters.

The terrorists kidnapped the priest and the nuns on Wednesday [as received] in Masin, a district 280 km east of Huaraz, after killing Rosario Felipe Gomez, the mayor-elect of Uco, his wife, and two teachers who were accompanying the mayor. Initial reports from Huaraz indicated that the terrorists had kidnapped one priest and three nuns, all Italian citizens, to exchange them for high-ranking police officers.

San Juan de Castrovirreyna Mayor-Elect Murdered

PY1711135089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0258 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Chincha (Peru), 16 Nov (EFE)—Police sources reported today that Moises Bendezu Guillen, the mayor-elect of San Juan de Castrovirreyna, a district in the Peruvian department of Huancavelica, died in a local hospital after he was found with his head smashed.

The body of Bendezu, 35, a member of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party and the only candidate in his district, was found today by some peasants at the bottom of a ravine near his house, the sources said. The Maoist "Shining Path" guerrilla group is believed to have carried out the attack.

The mayor-elect of San Juan de Castrovirreyna, a town located on the border with Ica Department, was taken to the San Jose Hospital in the town of Chincha, Ica Department, 85 km from San Juan de Castrovirreyna. He died in the hospital.

The police reported that the autopsy revealed brain damage and internal hemorrhaging.

Bendezu headed his district's only ticket for the local mayoralty in the 12 November elections in Peru that were sabotaged by the "Shining Path."

Two Teachers Killed in Ayacucho After Voting

PY1811193489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 17 Nov (EFE)—Two teachers were shot to death by alleged members of the Peruvian "Shining Path" terrorist group in a town in a jungle area in Ayacucho, travelers coming from that area reported here today.

The travelers told the Ayacucho police that the bodies of Eleuterio Cerda, 38, and Cirilo Perez, 40, were found near a road after they were attacked on 16 November as they were returning to Monterrico, their birthplace. Monterrico is about 120 km northeast of Ayacucho.

The travelers reported that the two teachers were returning to Monterrico from Ayacucho after voting in the 12 November municipal elections.

No Victims in Jesus Maria District Bombing

PY1711223289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] A bomb exploded today in a house in Jesus Maria neighborhood, scaring neighbors and alerting the police.

The bomb exploded while the residents were sleeping during siesta. We learned that the bomb planted in the house had 300 grams of dynamite and a slow fuse. The explosion destroyed most of the windows of the 24 apartments of the building. It is thought that the attack was intended to be against a branch of a Lima bank.

A 17- or 18-year-old man planted the bomb and ran in fear toward the Jesus Maria market, warning a street vendor to take cover from the explosion.

Two Republican Guards and a member of the Technical Police, who is a former commander, live in the building where the bomb was planted. However, according to the police who are investigating the attack, the bomb was not meant for these police members but for the bank. The bomb opened a 20-cm diameter hole in the building and damaged the marble floor.

Social Security Institute Chairman Appointed

PY1611213489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Summary] The government has designated Alejandro Ubilluz Carrasco to serve as executive chairman of the Peruvian Institute of Social Security. In his first interview with the press, Ubilluz Carrasco announced that he will not hire new employees for the institute; rather, he will make better use of the current employees' capacities.

Venezuela

President Says FMLN Did Not Kill Jesuits

PA1811145889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1416 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Caracas, 17 Nov (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women in San Salvador on 16 November "is not attributable to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)."

Perez described the gunning down of the Jesuits, a servant, and the servant's daughter as a "horrible crime," adding that this act "demonstrates how far an absolutely unjustified war can go."

The Venezuelan president said, "It is inconceivable that, with peace talks under way, there should have been a resumption of a war that is taking hundreds of lives every day."

The president added that so far there has been no response to his "repeated offers" to have Venezuela be the site of peace talks between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas.